



3 NEW FEATURES DEBUT!

ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

NO. 636

\$1.50

CAN \$2.00

U.K. 60p

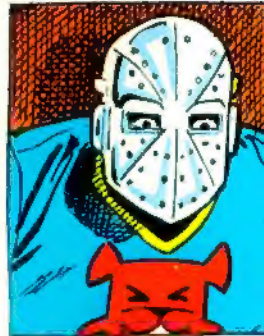
PHANTOM
LADY™

COVER
LATE!

Dick,
call
The
Office

Call
Home

WANTED



WILDDOG™

1989

FEB

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28				

SUPERMAN™



SPEEDY™



al Pene



DEMON™

Amazingly like the rest of the DC universe, the Devil's Disc is a somewhat short of human feeling, passion or poetry, yet the delightful craft and ship and stable with there devil of his writing, is here seen



COME ON, BABE,
IT'S LATE. LET'S
GO TO BED.

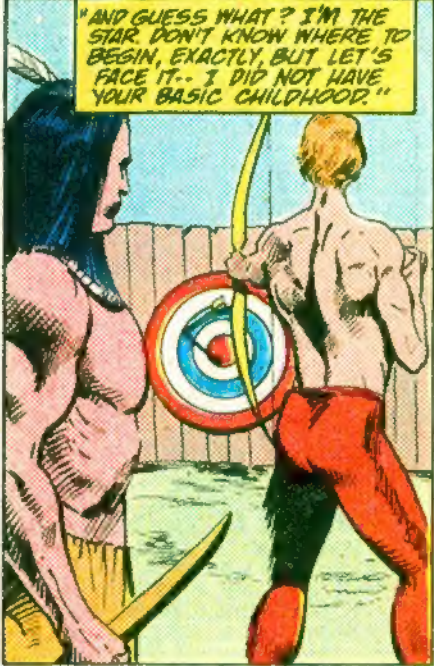
ALL RIGHT, ONE
MORE STORY. THIS
TIME I'LL MAKE
IT A FUNNY
ONE.

EXILES

SPEEDY

MARK VERHEIDEN
WRITER
FRANK McLAUGHLIN
INKER
JULIANNA FERRITER
COLORIST

LEWIS WILLIAMS
PENCILLER
TIM HARKINS
LETTERER
ROBERT GREENBERGER
EDITOR



"AND GUESS WHAT? I'M THE
STAR. DON'T KNOW WHERE TO
BEGIN, EXACTLY, BUT LET'S
FACE IT-- I DID NOT HAVE
YOUR BASIC CHILDHOOD."



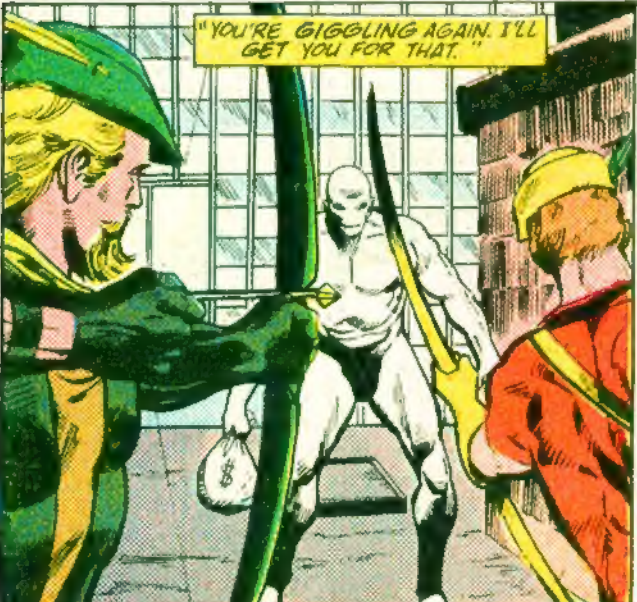
"I WAS ORPHANED AS A BOY AND
LEARNED ARCHERY FROM AN INDIAN
NAMED BRAVE BOW. THIS IMPRESSED
THE HECK OUT OF A MILLIONAIRE
NAMED OLIVER QUEEN, AND I
BECAME HIS WARD."

"AS MILLIONAIRES GO, HE
WAS AN AVERAGE GUY--
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING.
HE LIKED TO DRESS UP
LIKE ROBIN HOOD AND
FIGHT CRIME."



"THAT'S RIGHT, FIGHT CRIME.
TOLD YOU IT WAS FUNNY."

"I WAS ALREADY GOOD WITH
THE BOW-- OLLIE TAUGHT
ME THE REST. HE COOKED
UP A JUNIOR VERSION OF
THE GREEN ARROW COSTU-
ME AND NICKNAMED
ME 'SPEEDY'. AND I
FOUGHT CRIME, TOO."



"YOU'RE GIGGLING AGAIN. I'LL
GET YOU FOR THAT."



"CONSIDERING SOME OF THE
JERKS WE WENT UP AGAINST,
SOMETIMES I WISHED HE'D
CALLED HIMSELF THE 'GREEN
'44 MAGNUM'. BUT WHAT THE
HEY. WE DID ALL RIGHT."



"THEN THINGS
WENT BAD."

QUEEN LOSES EMPIRE!



"MUST HAVE BEEN PRETTY HARD ON OLIVER. HE LOST EVERYTHING-- THE HOUSE, CARS, POLO PONIES-- THE WHOLE ENCHILADA."

"HE WENT OFF TO FIND AMERICA. GOOD OL' SPEEDY WAS LEFT TO FEND FOR HIMSELF."



"I GUESS I BLAMED HIM AT THE TIME, BUT DRUGS ARE FUNNY LIKE THAT. YOU BLAME EVERYBODY BUT YOURSELF."



"REMAND ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT HEROIN WITHDRAWAL. SOME NIGHTS, WHEN I'M ALONE, I CAN STILL FEEL THE PAIN."

"LOOKING BACK, I SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE HINT AND SPENT SOME TIME GETTING MY ACT TOGETHER. FOUND A REGULAR JOB, MAYBE FINISHED COLLEGE--"



"INSTEAD, I ENDED UP IN JAPAN MAKING UNDERCOVER BUYS AS PART OF THE FBI'S DRUG ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM. THAT'S WHERE I MET JADE... CHESHIRE."



"CHESHIRE-- JADE AND I MADE LOVE, BUT WE WEREN'T IN LOVE. DOES THAT MAKE ANY SENSE? IT DID AT THE TIME."

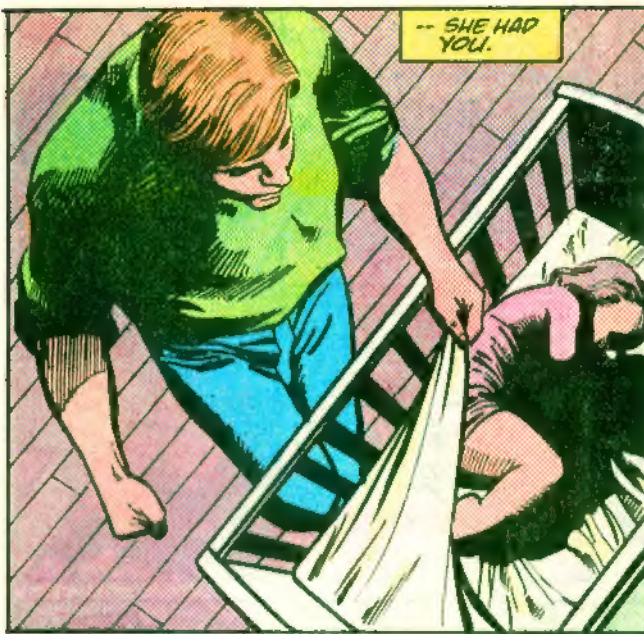
"AS RELATIONSHIPS GO, IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE BESIDES DEALING DRUGS, CHESHIRE WAS A HIRED ASSASSIN-- NOT TO MENTION COMPLETELY INSANE."

"YEP ROY SURE KNOWS HOW TO PICK 'EM."



"GREEN LANTERN USED TO SAY THERE WAS SOME GOOD IN EVERYONE."

"OLIVER THOUGHT HE WAS NUTS-- LANTERN ALWAYS WAS A SOFT TOUCH-- BUT LOOKING BACK, MAYBE GL WAS RIGHT. I MEAN, EVEN CHESHIRE ENDED UP DOING SOMETHING GOOD--"

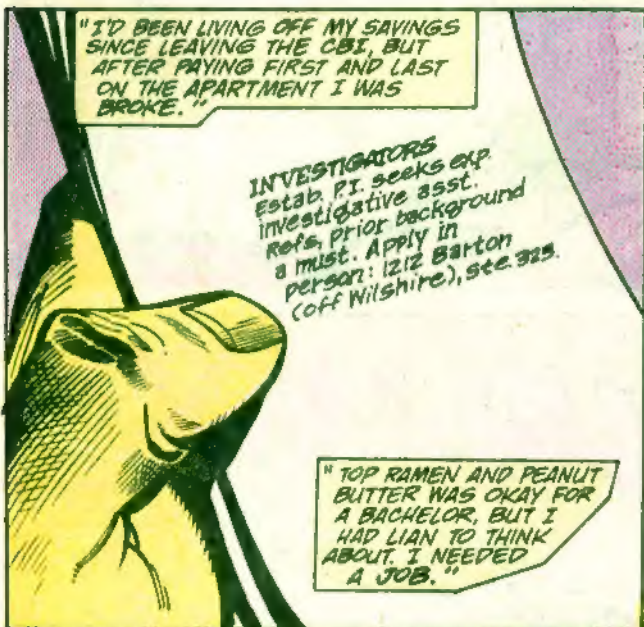


-- SHE HAD YOU.



"NOTHING LIKE MOVING TO LOS ANGELES TO CLEAR OUT THE TUBES. I NEEDED A FRESH START-- AND SO DID LIAN."

"I LEFT LIAN WITH MRS. ESTAVEZ AND HIT THE STREETS."



"I'D BEEN LIVING OFF MY SAVINGS SINCE LEAVING THE CBS, BUT AFTER PAYING FIRST AND LAST ON THE APARTMENT I WAS BROKE."

INVESTIGATORS
Estab. P.I. seeks exp.
investigative asst.
Refs, prior background
a must. Apply in
person: 1212 Barton
(off Wilshire), Ste. 323.

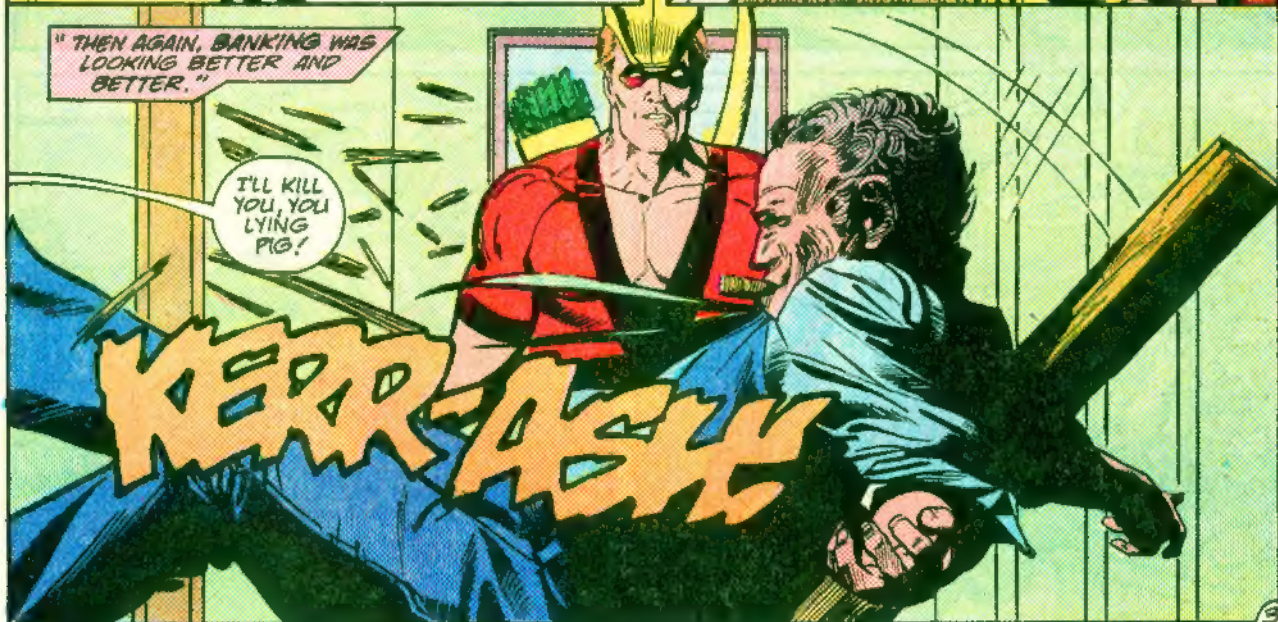
"TOP RAMEN AND PEANUT BUTTER WAS OKAY FOR A BACHELOR, BUT I HAD LIAN TO THINK ABOUT. I NEEDED A JOB."



"OLIVER TRAINED ME TO BE A DETECTIVE. I GUESS I WANTED TO DETECT."

SUITE 323
QUEEN BUNNEY:
PRIVATE
INVESTIGATIONS
& INCOME TAX
PREPARATION

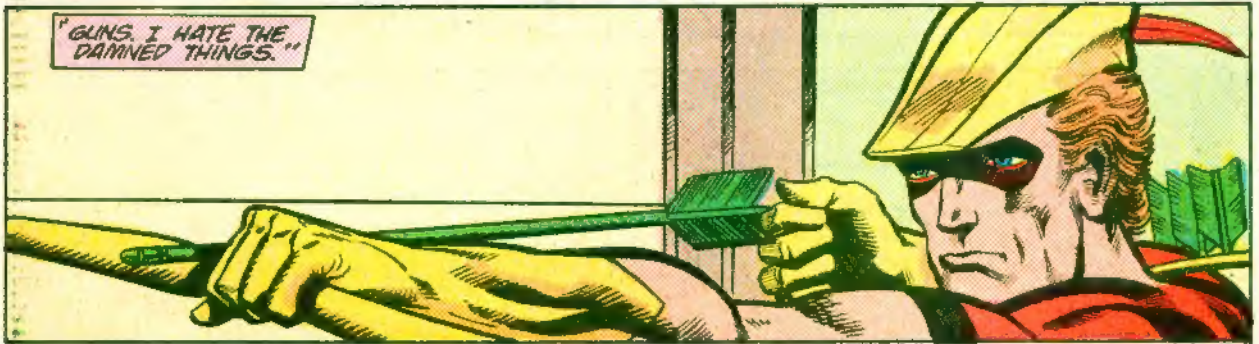
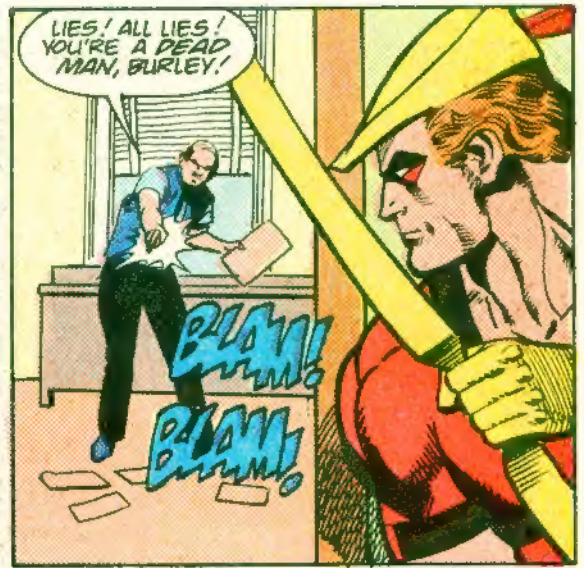
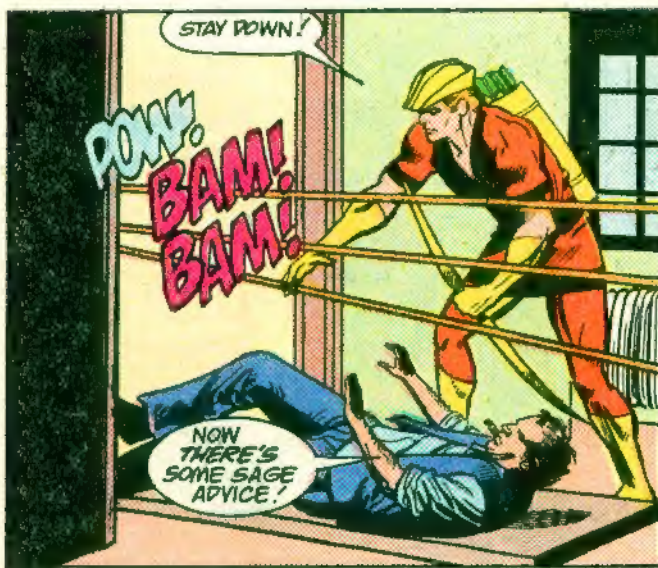
INCOME TAX
PREPARATION?

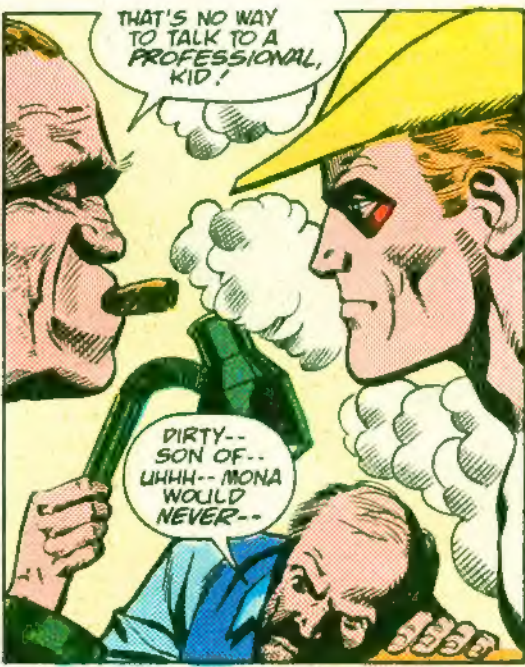
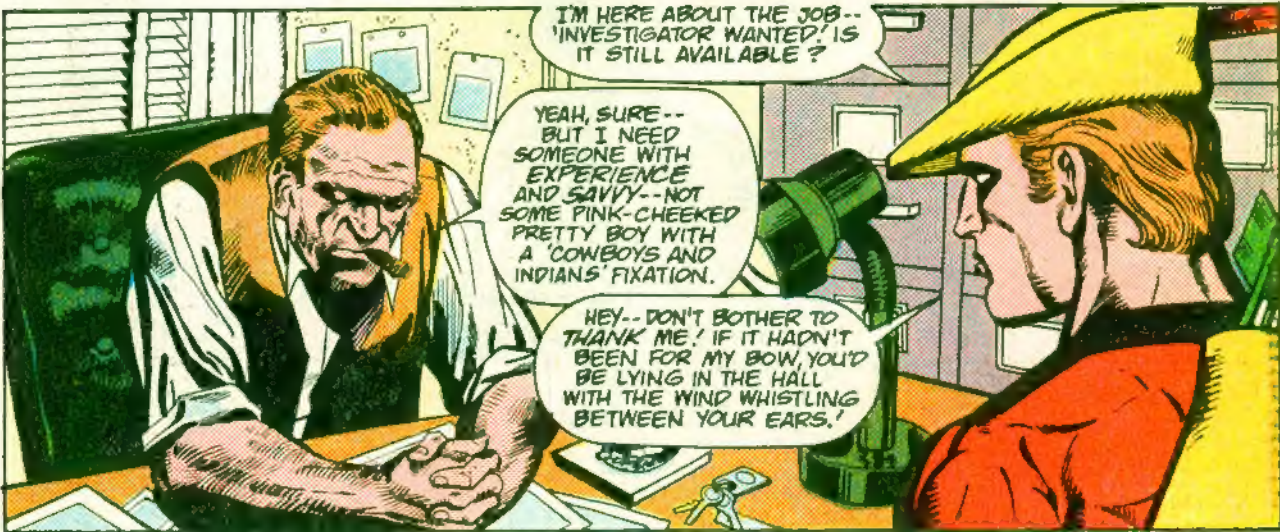


"THEN AGAIN, BANKING WAS LOOKING BETTER AND BETTER."

I'LL KILL
YOU, YOU
LYING
PIG!

KERR-ASH!

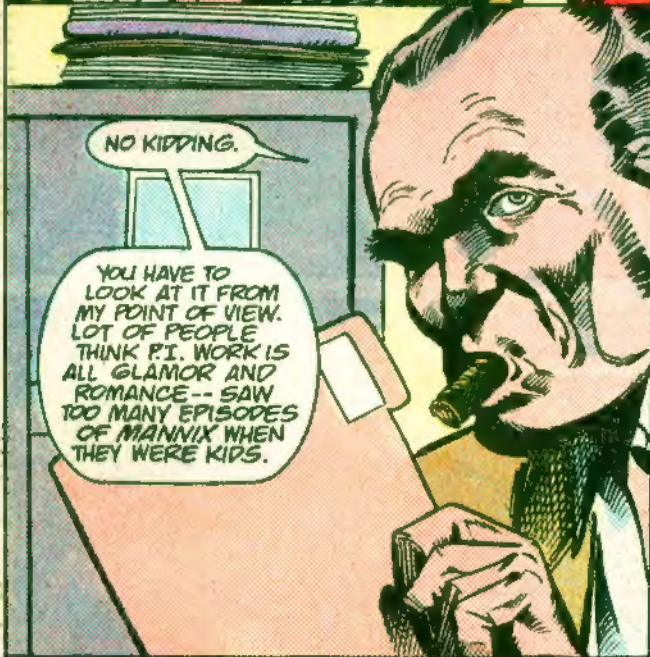






WHY NOT TRY THE COPS,
OR EVEN THE FEDS? THEY
PAY BETTER AND YOU CAN'T
BEAT THE BENEFITS--
FREE GUN, SNAPPY
UNIFORM--

I HAVE MY--
REASONS. AND
I DON'T NEED
A UNIFORM.



NO KIDDING.

YOU HAVE TO
LOOK AT IT FROM
MY POINT OF VIEW.
LOT OF PEOPLE
THINK P.I. WORK IS
ALL GLAMOR AND
ROMANCE-- SAW
TOO MANY EPISODES
OF MANVIX WHEN
THEY WERE KIDS.

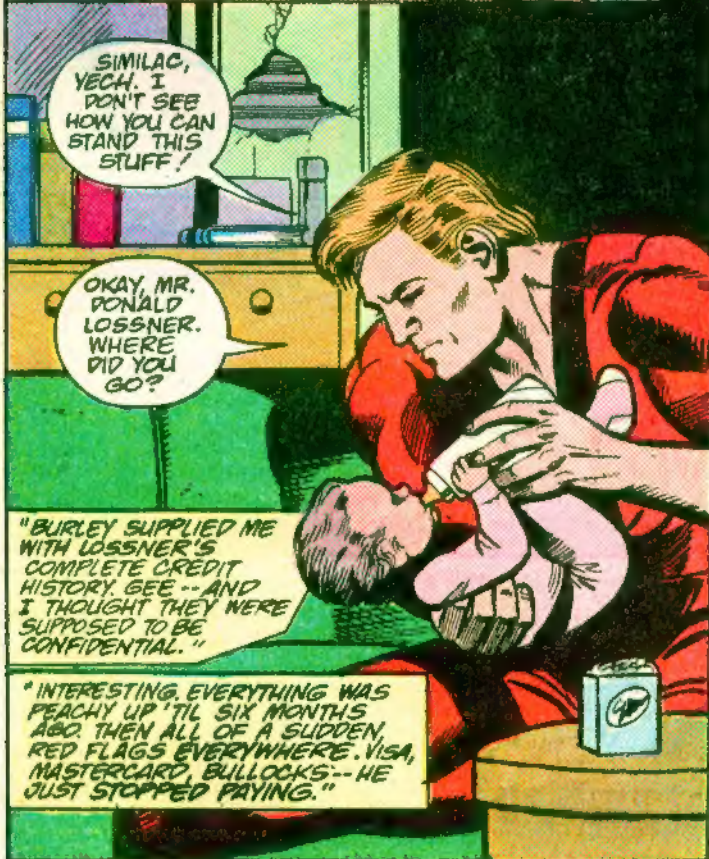


CLIENT'S NAME IS
PHIL LOSSNER. SAYS
HIS BROTHER DONALD
HAS DISAPPEARED.
FIND HIM AND I'LL
GIVE YOU 50% OF
THE FEE.

THAT'S IT?
DON'T YOU
WANT TO
KNOW MY
BACK-
GROUND?

NAHH-- I'M
NOT INTO SCIENCE
FICTION. BESIDES,
I'VE GOT A
FEELING
ABOUT YOU.

IT'S A BAD
FEELING, BUT IT'S
A FEELING.



SIMILAC,
YECH. I
DON'T SEE
HOW YOU CAN
STAND THIS
STUFF!

OKAY, MR.
DONALD
LOSSNER.
WHERE
DID YOU
GO?

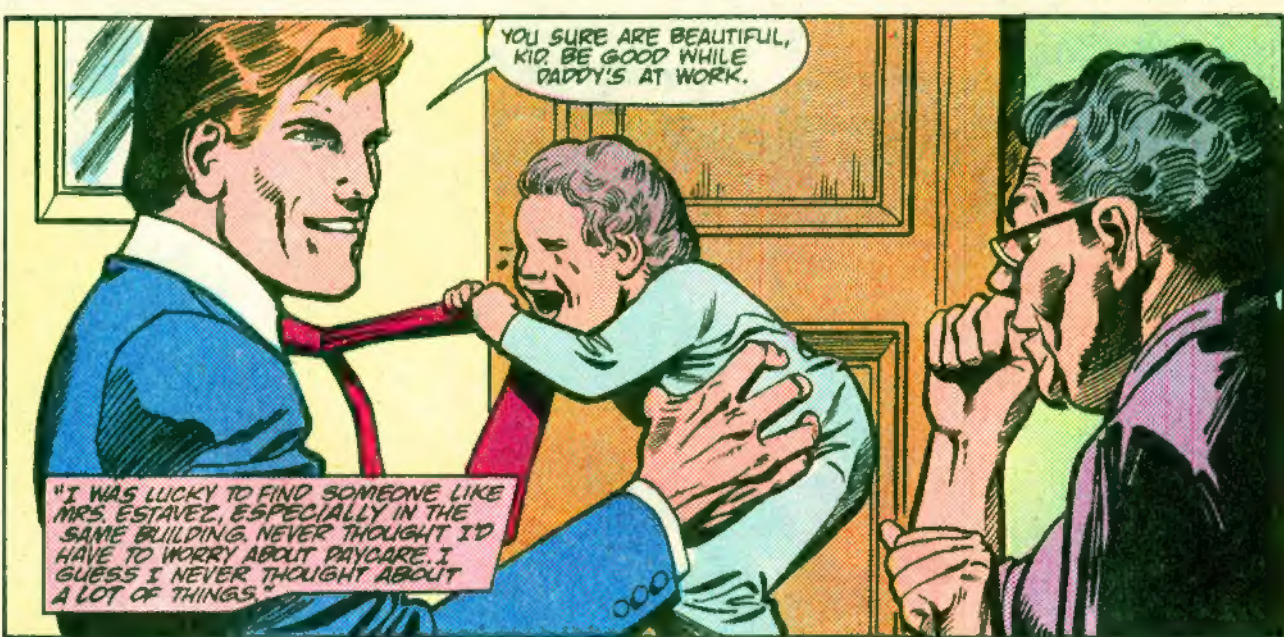
"BURLEY SUPPLIED ME
WITH LOSSNER'S
COMPLETE CREDIT
HISTORY. GEE-- AND
I THOUGHT THEY WERE
SUPPOSED TO BE
CONFIDENTIAL."

"INTERESTING. EVERYTHING WAS
PEACHY UP 'TIL SIX MONTHS
AGO THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN
RED FLAGS EVERYWHERE. VISA,
MASTERCARD, BULLOCK'S-- HE
JUST STOPPED PAYING."



THREE MONTHS
LATER HE LOST
HIS INSURANCE
JOB, GOT EVICTED
AND 'POOF' BYE
BYE DONALD.

FUNNY-- NOTHING ON
BROTHER PHILLIP I
WONDER WHAT THAT
MEANS?



THE
DEMON

IT'S WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF PANDEMONIUM
THAT BELIAL, ARCH-DUKE OF HELL, LORD OF
LIES, BEGAT THE DEMON MERLIN, AND GAVE
HIM CHARGE OF HIS PIT-SPAWNED
BROTHER, ETRIGAN, WHOSE RAGE WAS
FEARED BY HELL ITSELF.

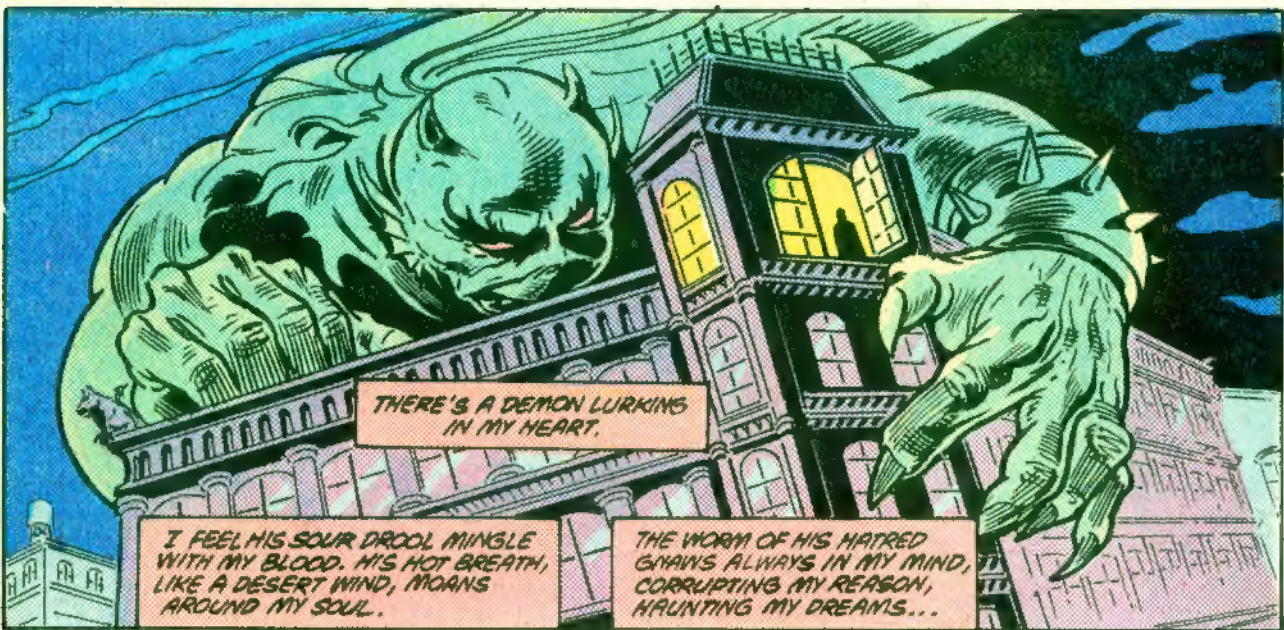
AND WHEN MERLIN'S POWER FELL
BEFORE THE WITCH-QUEEN
MORGAN LE FAY, HE DID IMPRISON
ETRIGAN IN A CAGE OF FLESH,
THERE TO DWELL 'TIL THE
MAGICIAN WAKE FROM HIS
AEON-LONG SLUMBER.

A THOUSAND YEARS HAVE PASSED. NOW, THE
ABOMINATION ASTERDOTH HOLDS MERLIN
CAPTIVE AND ETRIGAN HAS LEARNED THAT
NE'ER CAN HE BE TRULY FREE.

SO ETRIGAN FUMES... AND ETRIGAN BROODS

AND ETRIGAN WAITS.

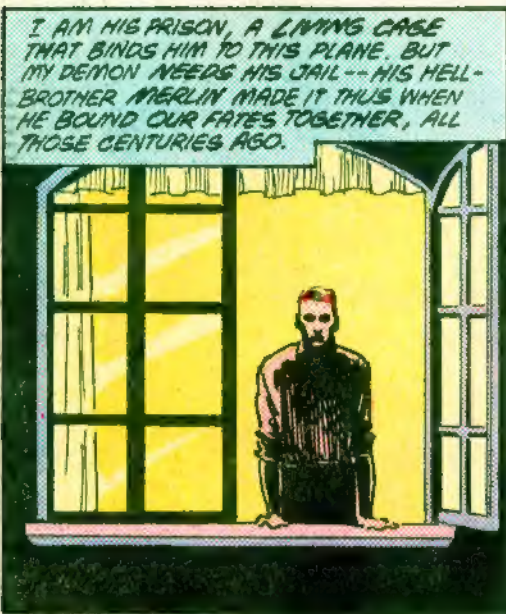
ALAN GRANT - WRITER • MARK PACELLA - PENCILLER
BILL WRAY - INKER • JOHN COSTANZA - LETTERER
TATJANA WOOD - COLORIST • DAN RASPLER - EDITOR



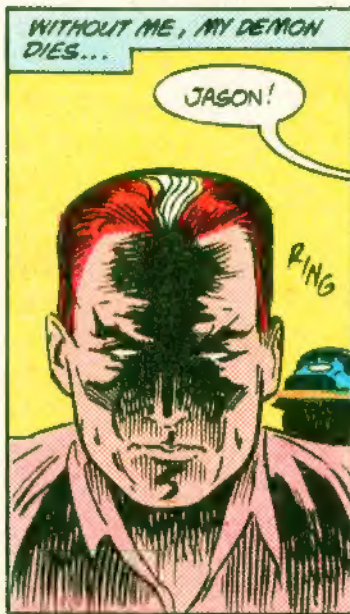
THERE'S A DEMON LURKING
IN MY HEART.

I FEEL HIS SOUR DROOL MINGLE
WITH MY BLOOD. HIS HOT BREATH,
LIKE A DESERT WIND, MOANS
AROUND MY SOUL.

THE WORM OF HIS HATRED
GNAWS ALWAYS IN MY MIND,
CORRUPTING MY REASON,
HAUNTING MY DREAMS...



I AM HIS PRISON, A LIVING CASE
THAT BINDS HIM TO THIS PLANE. BUT
MY DEMON NEEDS HIS JAIL-- HIS HELL-
BROTHER MERLIN MADE IT THUS WHEN
HE BOUND OUR FATES TOGETHER, ALL
THOSE CENTURIES AGO.



WITHOUT ME, MY DEMON
DIES...

JASON!

RING



AND WITHOUT MY DEMON,
SO DO I.

JASON!
THE PHONE!

WHA--?

SORRY, GLENDA. I
WAS THINKING.



IS THIS JASON BLOOD?
THE DEMONOLOGIST?

EX-DEMONOLOGIST.
I TOLD YOU LAST TIME
YOU CALLED-- I NO
LONGER PRACTICE.

WE NEED HELP! JACK--
MY SON-- HE... SOMETHING
IS POSSESSING HIM! IT'S
TAKING HIM OVER--
MAKING HIM EVIL!



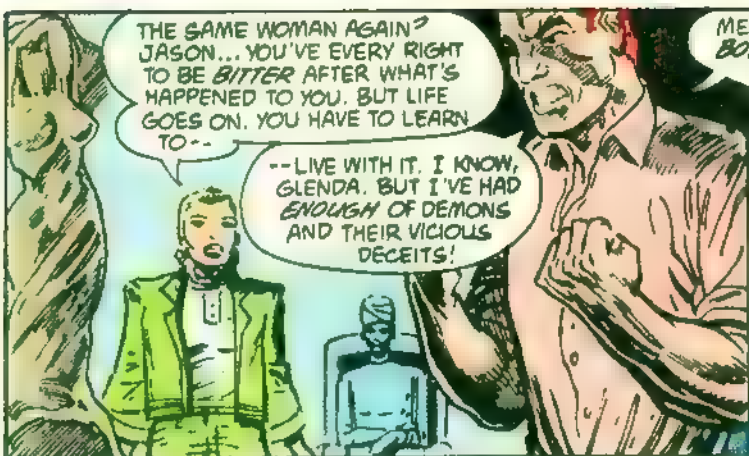
I'M SORRY, I...
CAN ONLY ADVISE
YOU TO CALL A
PRIEST.

WE ALREADY DID
THAT. THEY TOOK HIM
AWAY IN A STRAIT-
JACKET!

YOU'RE OUR LAST
HOPE, MR. BLOOD.
PLEASE HELP US!

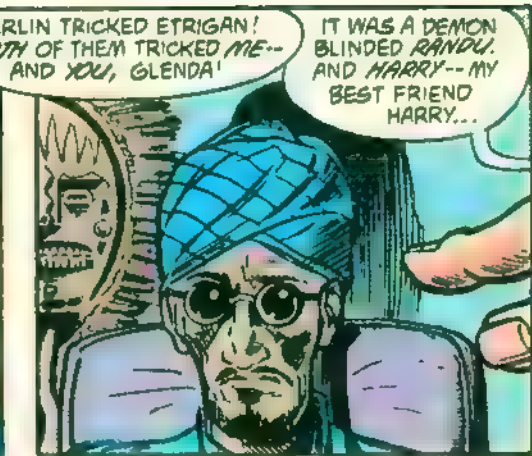


I'M
SORRY.



THE SAME WOMAN AGAIN?
JASON... YOU'VE EVERY RIGHT
TO BE BITTER AFTER WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO YOU. BUT LIFE
GOES ON. YOU HAVE TO LEARN
TO--

--LIVE WITH IT. I KNOW,
GLENDA. BUT I'VE HAD
ENOUGH OF DEMONS
AND THEIR VICIOUS
DECEITS!

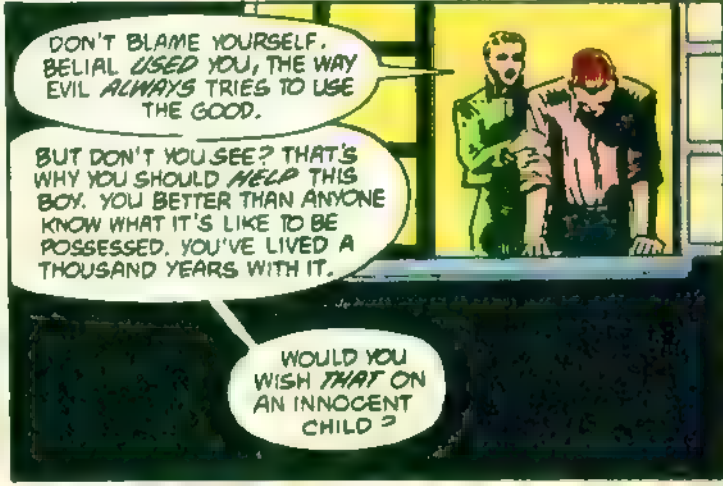


MERLIN TRICKED ETRIGAN!
BOTH OF THEM TRICKED ME--
AND YOU, GLENDA!

IT WAS A DEMON
BLINDED RANDU.
AND HARRY-- MY
BEST FRIEND
HARRY...



I FAILED, AND BELIAL TOOK
HIM. BECAUSE OF ME, HARRY'S
A SEAT-COVER IN HELL!



DON'T BLAME YOURSELF.
BELIAL USED YOU, THE WAY
EVIL ALWAYS TRIES TO USE
THE GOOD.

BUT DON'T YOU SEE? THAT'S
WHY YOU SHOULD HELP THIS
BOY. YOU BETTER THAN ANYONE
KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO BE
POSSESSED. YOU'VE LIVED A
THOUSAND YEARS WITH IT.

WOULD YOU
WISH THAT ON
AN INNOCENT
CHILD?

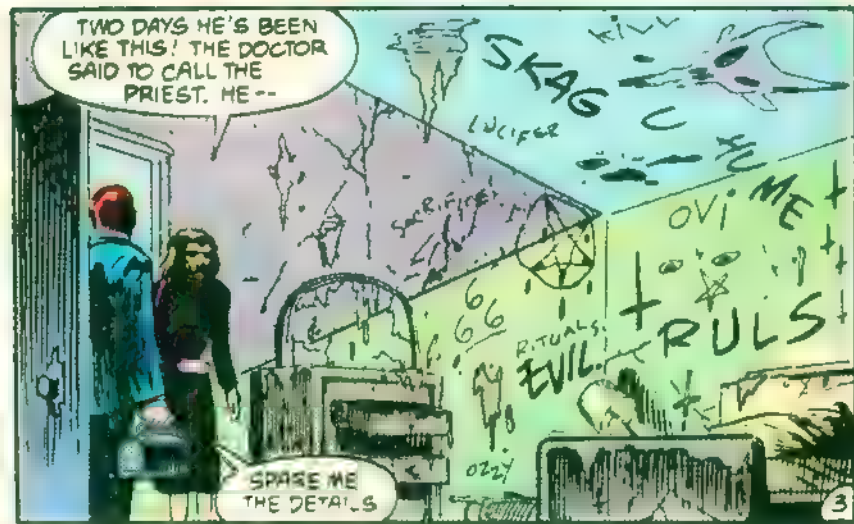


NO. I WOULDN'T
WISH IT ON MY
WORST ENEMY.



I HADN'T TAKEN THE ADDRESS
IT WASN'T NEEDED. THE OVER-
RIPE STENCH OF DEMON
SEEPED FROM THE HOUSE.

I'M BLOOD
I'LL DO WHAT
I CAN



TWO DAYS HE'S BEEN
LIKE THIS! THE DOCTOR
SAID TO CALL THE
PRIEST. HE--

SPARE ME
THE DETAILS

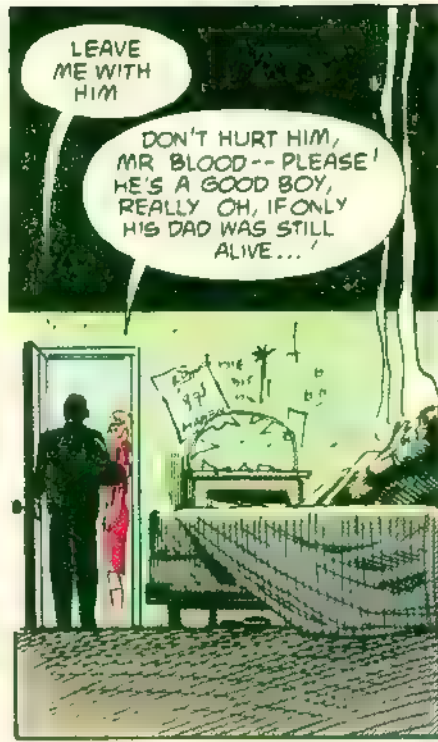




JACK?
THERE'S
SOMEONE--
OH!



NOT JACK, HAG! MALEFIK!
MALEFIK, YOU SCUMBRAIN SOW!

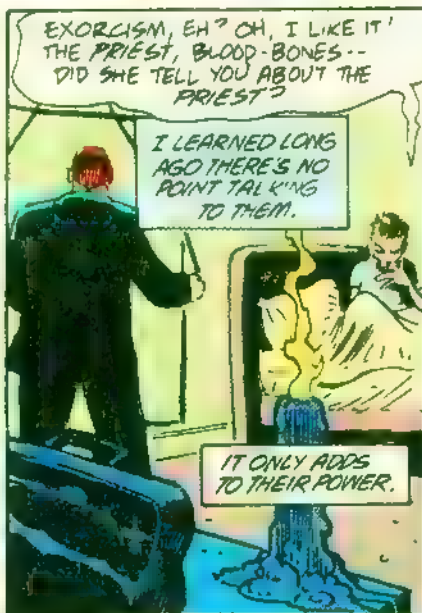


LEAVE
ME WITH
HIM

DON'T HURT HIM,
MR BLOOD-- PLEASE!
HE'S A GOOD BOY,
REALLY OH, IF ONLY
HIS DAD WAS STILL
ALIVE...



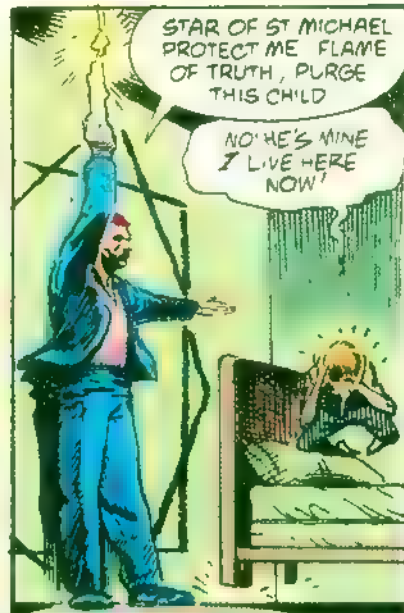
BLOOD, EH? BLOOD-
BAG! BLOOD-BONES!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING
BLOOD-BONES?



EXORCISM, EH? OH, I LIKE IT!
THE PRIEST, BLOOD-BONES--
DID SHE TELL YOU ABOUT THE
PRIEST?

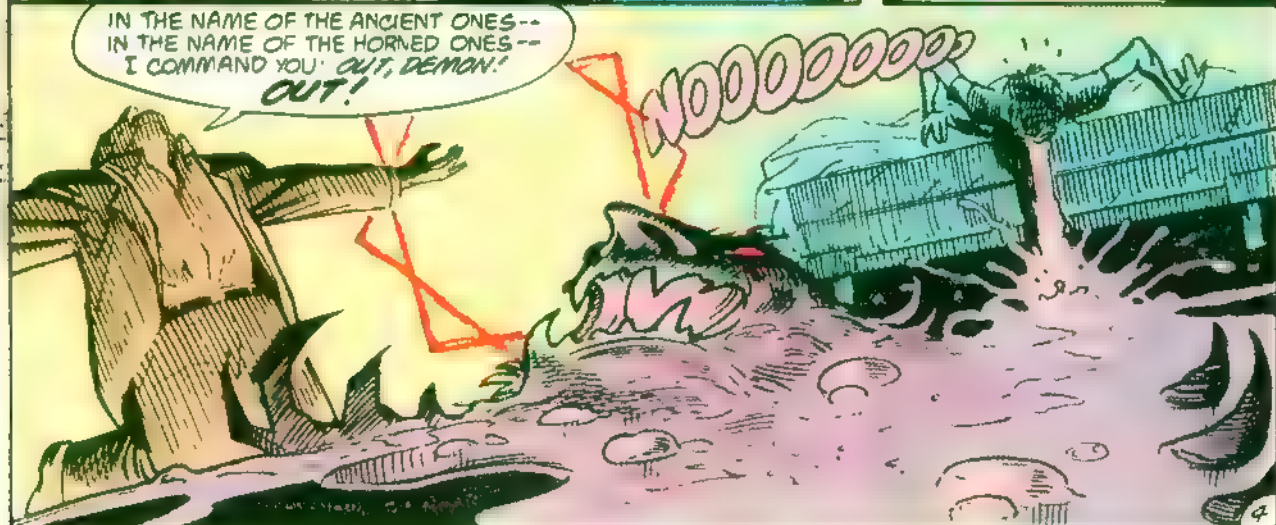
I LEARNED LONG
AGO THERE'S NO
POINT TALKING
TO THEM.

IT ONLY ADDS
TO THEIR POWER.



STAR OF ST MICHAEL
PROTECT ME FLAME
OF TRUTH, PURGE
THIS CHILD

NO HE'S MINE
I LIVE HERE
NOW!



IN THE NAME OF THE ANCIENT ONES--
IN THE NAME OF THE HORNED ONES--
I COMMAND YOU: OUT, DEMON!
OUT!

NOOOOOOOOOO

IRONIC, THAT, UNABLE TO EXORCISE
MY OWN DEMON, I SHOULD HAVE
THE KNOWLEDGE TO EXORCISE OTHERS'

YOUR RITUALS ARE
STRONG, BLOOD-BONES
TELL ME NOW--

--WHAT CHANTS
DO YOU HAVE TO STOP
ME RIPPING YOU LIMB
FROM BLOODY LIMB?

NO CHANTS, BLOOD-BONES!
NO CHANCE!

RANDU! WHAT IS IT--
WHAT'S WRONG?

I... DON'T KNOW. A SORT
OF PSYCHIC SHIVER-- A PRE-
MONITION OF DANGER, PERHAPS. MY
EXTRA-SENSORY POWERS HAVE STRENGTHENED
SINCE I... LOST MY SIGHT-- BUT IT'S STILL HARD
TO INTERPRET THE FLASHES I GET.

DANGER?
I HOPE
IT'S NOT
JASON!

DO YOU THINK I DID THE RIGHT THING--
TALKING HIM INTO GOING?

AS YOU TOLD HIM, HOPELESS
THOUGH HIS SITUATION MAY
SEEM, HE HAS TO LIVE WITH IT.
IN THE FACE OF GREAT EVIL,
EVEN A SMALL GOOD IS A
START.

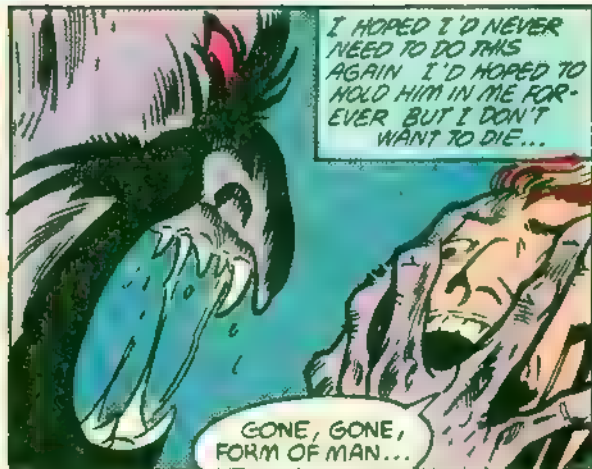
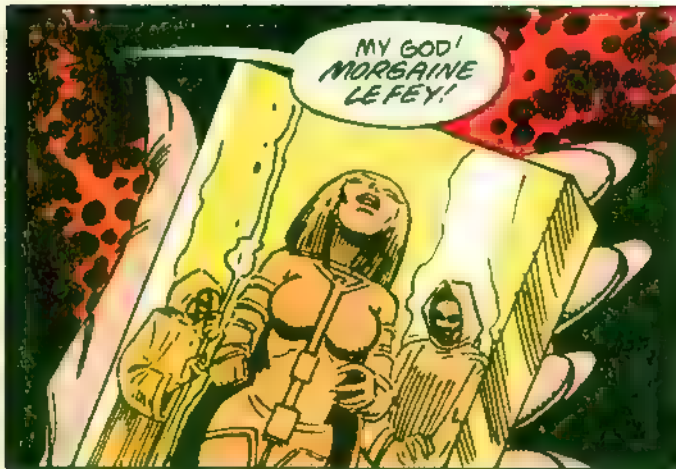
IF ONLY THE PHILOSOPHER'S STONE
HADN'T LOST ITS POWER WHEN MERLIN
LEFT THIS PLANE! I COULD HAVE
USED IT TO HELP HIM.

I REALLY FELT
I WAS STARTING
TO DEVELOP
SOME.

... RAPPORT
WITH IT.

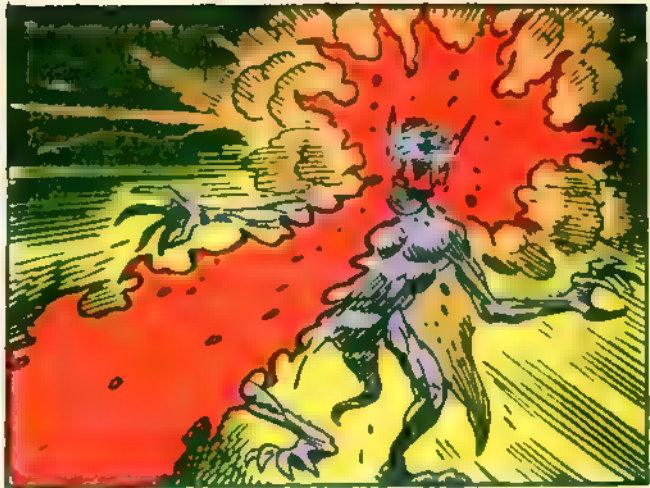
RANDU! THE STONE--
IT'S GLOWING!

THERE'S AN
IMAGE
FORMING...





'TIS BEST IF HE'S
FED!



MALEFIK? THE POWER
LIVED NOT UP TO THE
NAME THAT HE BOASTED.
THE FLESH WILL, I HOPE--

NOW THAT IT'S
TOASTED!



SHLUP RUNCH
CRACK
RUNCH



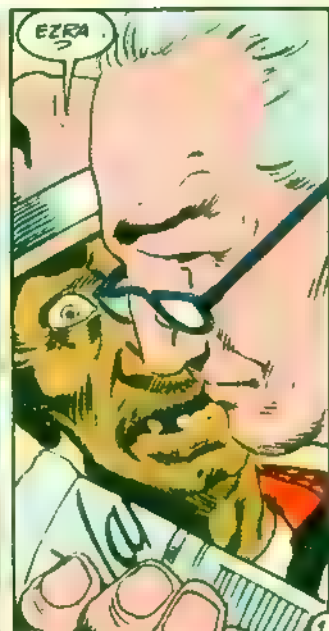
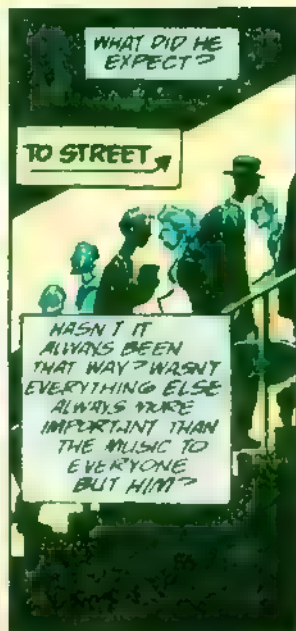
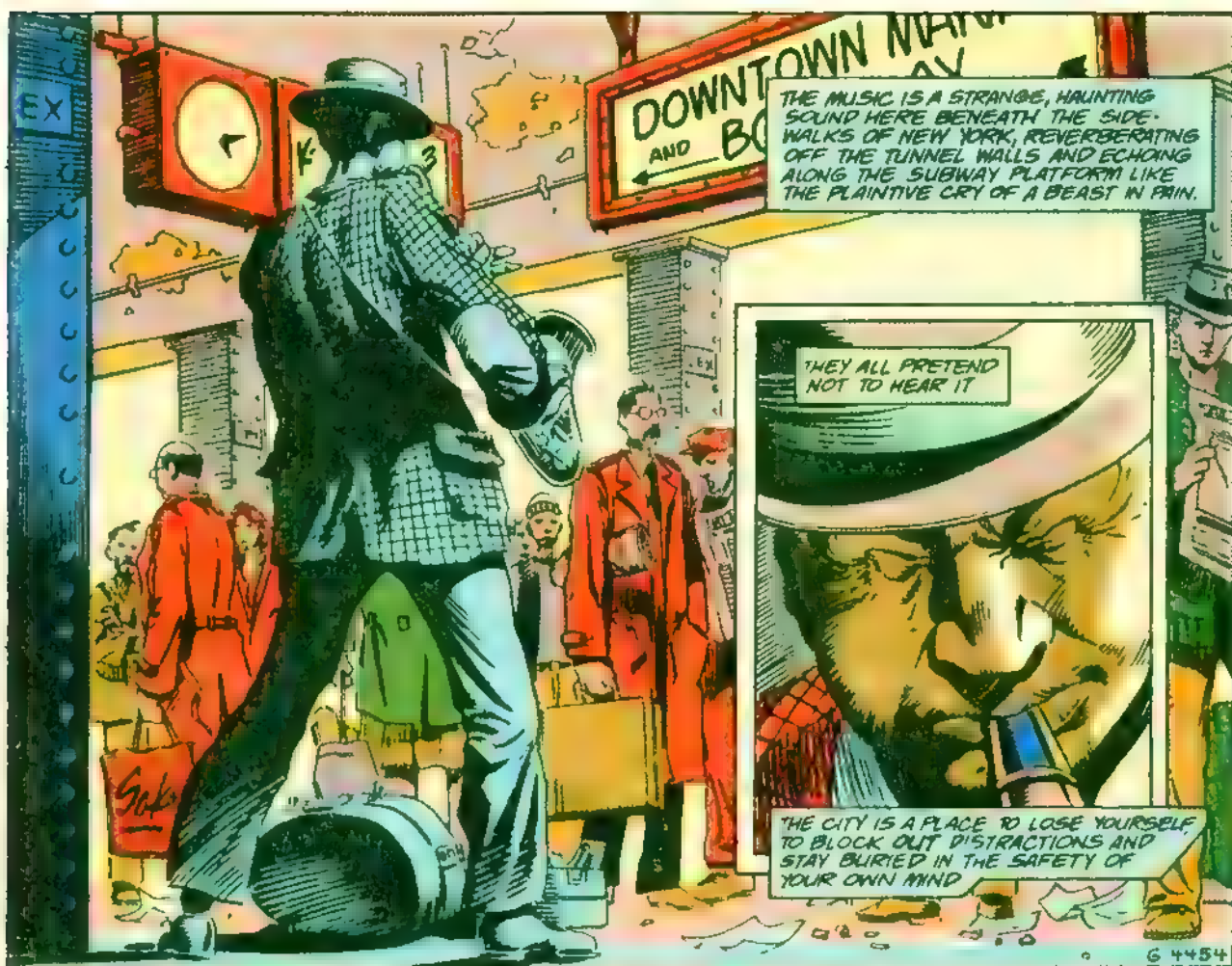
TASTY, I GRANT-- BUT NO
MORE THAN A SNACK. THE
PANGS OF THIS DEMON ARE
HARD TO REIN BACK.

WHAT'S THIS?
A BOY? OH
CULINARY
JOY!



SAY HELLO TO YOUR
UNCLE ETRIGAN,
JACK!

NEXT:
JACK
IN A
BOX?





PHANTOM STRANGER

ALL THAT JAZZ

What marvelous things man can accomplish when they but set aside their aggressions in favor of more gentle pursuits.

.. A repository of the world's knowledge and art, open for all to pursue.

Strange how man can so often be best defined by his contradictions

Even here, in the heart of a city ever on the edge of violence, stands a monument to their possibilities.

I find myself drawn to this place, both for the knowledge of the world it has to offer.

.. And for its continuous parade of interesting humanity

Interesting...

No surely I am mistaken.

What menace could there be here?

MUSIC AND MAGIC

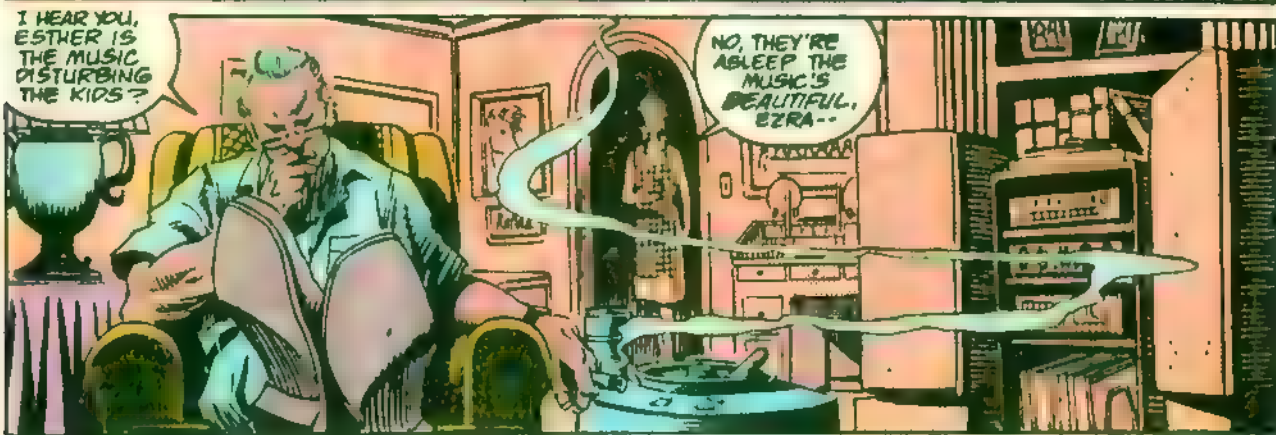


HOW MANY MORE TIMES ARE YOU GOING TO LISTEN TO THAT SONG, EZRA?

EZRA... ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?

I HEAR YOU, ESTHER IS THE MUSIC DISTURBING THE KIDS?

NO, THEY'RE ASLEEP THE MUSIC'S BEAUTIFUL, EZRA--



IT'S WHY YOU'RE LISTENING TO IT THAT WORRIES ME DEAR I WISH YOU'D FORGET THAT OLD MAN...

I CAN'T, ESTHER! THIS IS HIS MUSIC... THE MUSIC THAT MADE MY FATHER A FORTUNE AND THE COMPANY A SUCCESS...

AND THERE HE WAS, A RAGGED OLD MAN PLAYING FOR CHANGE IN THE SUBWAY. IT WAS PITIFUL, ESTHER AND I COULDN'T FACE HIM

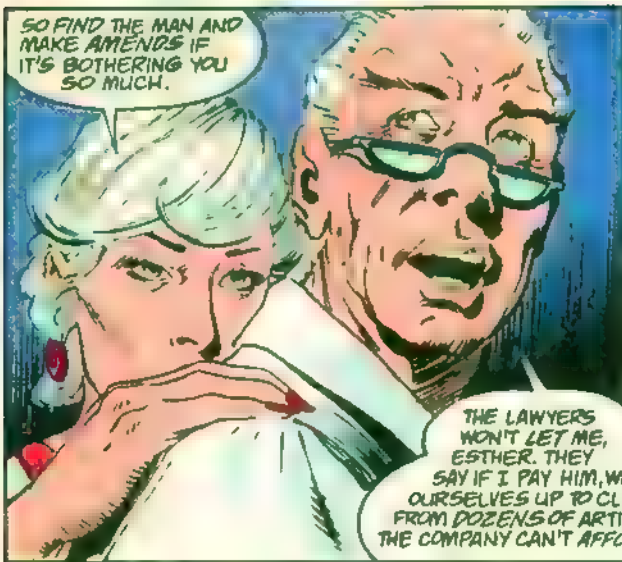
...WHAT MY FATHER AND I STOLE FROM THEM!

WE PAID THEM A FEW DOLLARS, SURE, THE MAN WAS AN ARTIST, A MAGICIAN WITH HIS INSTRUMENT AND HE GOT MAYBE \$50 FOR THAT AFTERNOON'S RECORDING SESSION... WE MADE TENS OF THOUSANDS.



THAT'S YOUR FAULT?

YES, WE'VE LIVED A PRETTY GOOD LIFE OFF OF WHAT LOBLON JONES AND OTHERS CREATED



SO FIND THE MAN AND MAKE AMENDS IF IT'S BOTHERING YOU SO MUCH.

THE LAWYERS WON'T LET ME, ESTHER. THEY SAY IF I PAY HIM, WE OPEN OURSELVES UP TO CLAIMS FROM DOZENS OF ARTISTS AND THE COMPANY CAN'T AFFORD TO... HUH?



WHAT IS IT, EZRA? I DON'T HEAR ANYTHING?

LISTEN! IT'S MUSIC..

SAXOPHONE
MUSIC?

HIS FIRST THOUGHT IS HOW
HE WOULD KILL TO RECORD
THAT MELODY.

HIS NEXT IS
OF FEAR...

Y-YOU!
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?

STOP IT,
JONES! THE
NEIGHBORS
WILL CALL
THE POLICE!

BUT THE
MELODY
PLAYS ON.

... DRIFTING THROUGH
THE NIGHT, CALLING
TO ALL WHO HEAR
ITS CALL

DAMN
IT, JONES,
YOU'RE GOING
TO WAKE UP
THE WHOLE
NEIGHBORHOOD!
WH-WHAT DO
YOU WANT?
MONEY? YOU
WANT MONEY,
RIGHT?

TALK TO ME,
JONES. TELL
ME WHAT YOU
WANT, FOR
GOD'S SAKE...

BUT IT IS NOT
MEANT FOR
HIS EARS.

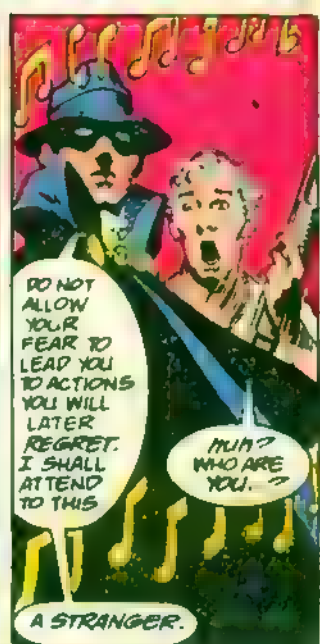
It is a call
to the
CHILDREN.

CHILDREN!
W-WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
OUT OF
BED?
BILLY
BARBIE

KI-KIDS! ANSWER
YOUR GRANDMOTHER!
WHAT... WHAT'S WRONG
WITH YOU?

MY GOD! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING TO
THEM, JONES--
?!

The music speaks for
the man, but Ezra
Griffith cannot hear
what is being said, nor
can he see its magic,
ghostly notes...





... and OVERWHELMS me!

Like a thing ALIVE, the ghostly notes find me, PIERCING my flesh...



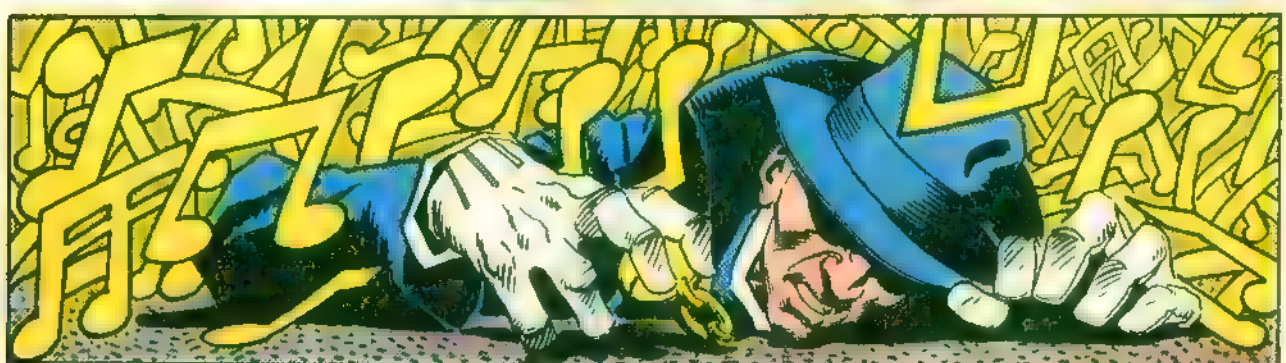
... seeking out places within me I thought INVIOLEATE...

... speaking my name...

... whispering to me my doubts and fears.



... forcing me to CONFRONT them... allowing for NO escape...



Escape...





..FLOW WITH THE MUSIC.

Loblaw Jones is not the creator of these sounds, only their conduit...



..Nor is he the only one who might tap the universal harmonies!



SOME POSSESS the ability to hear these sounds at will.

MOST will never hear them regardless of whether they ever attempt to open their ears.



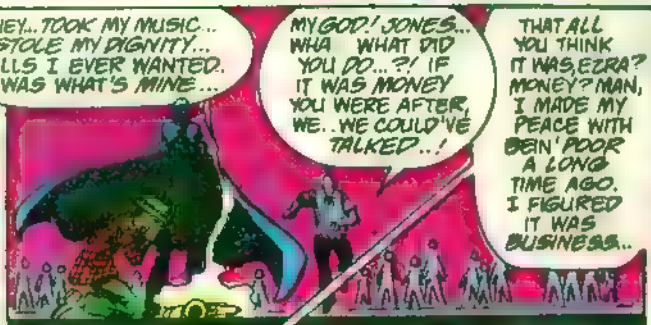
Loblaw Jones is among the former...

--And this gift is also his curse!



NOOOOOO!

IT...IT AIN'T FAIR, MAN, SOB! IT JUST AIN'T FAIR!



THEY..TOOK MY MUSIC... STOLE MY DIGNITY... ALLS I EVER WANTED. WAS WHAT'S MINE...

MY GOD! JONES... WHA WHAT DID YOU DO...?/ IF IT WAS MONEY YOU WERE AFTER, WE..WE COULD'VE TALKED...!

THAT ALL YOU THINK IT WAS, EZRA? MONEY? MAN, I MADE MY PEACE WITH BEIN' POOR A LONG TIME AGO. I FIGURED IT WAS BUSINESS...



THE MUSIC PLAYS ALWAYS, AND IT IS UP TO US HOW WE SHALL INTERPRET ITS SOUNDS. SO IT IS WITH ALL THINGS THAT TOUCH MAN. I KNOW...

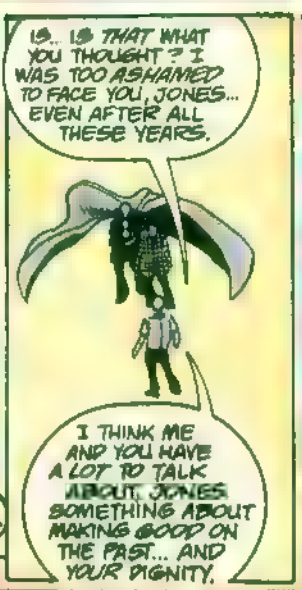
...FOR I AM THE PHANTOM STRANGER.



...AND YOUR PAPA WAS SMARTER'N ME, SO I LOST BUT BUT WHEN I SEEN YOU ON THE SUBWAY.. AND YOU RUN FROM ME, MAN...

IT WASN'T BUSINESS. YOU DIDN'T CARE ' YOU TOOK AWAY MY MUSIC-- MY BABIES...

.. SO WHY SHOULDN'T I TAKE YOURS?



IS... IS THAT WHAT YOU THOUGHT? I WAS TOO ASHAMED TO FACE YOU, JONES... EVEN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS.

I THINK ME AND YOU HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT, JONES SOMETHING ABOUT MAKING GOOD ON THE PAST... AND YOUR DIGNITY.



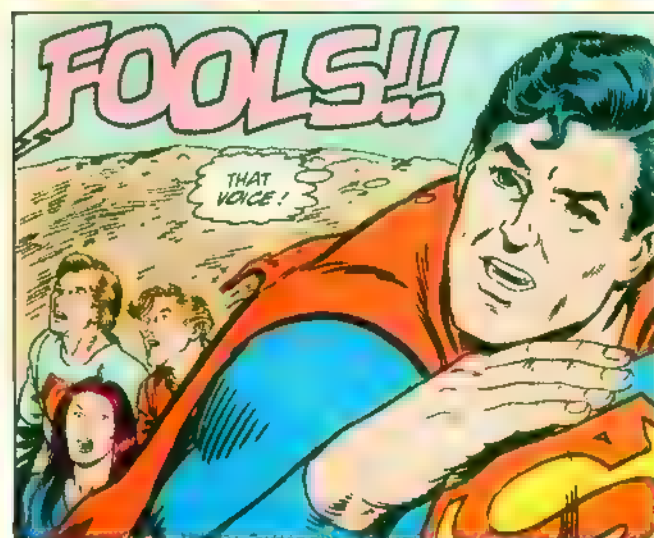
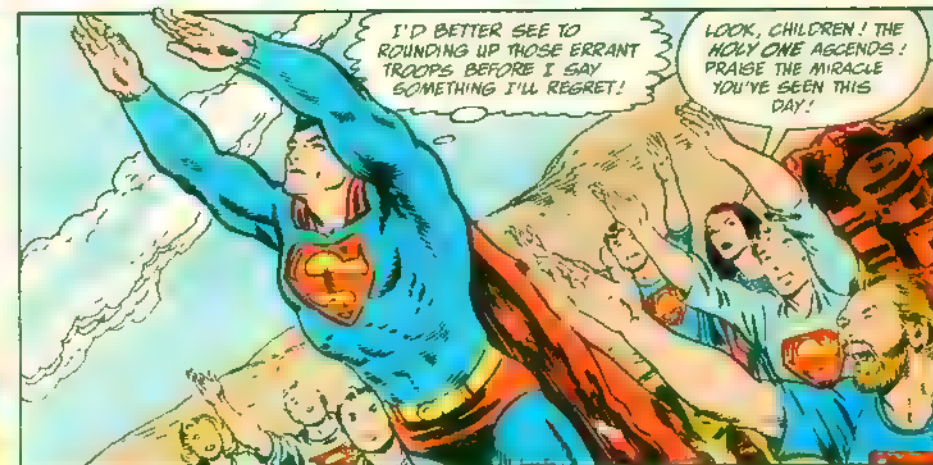
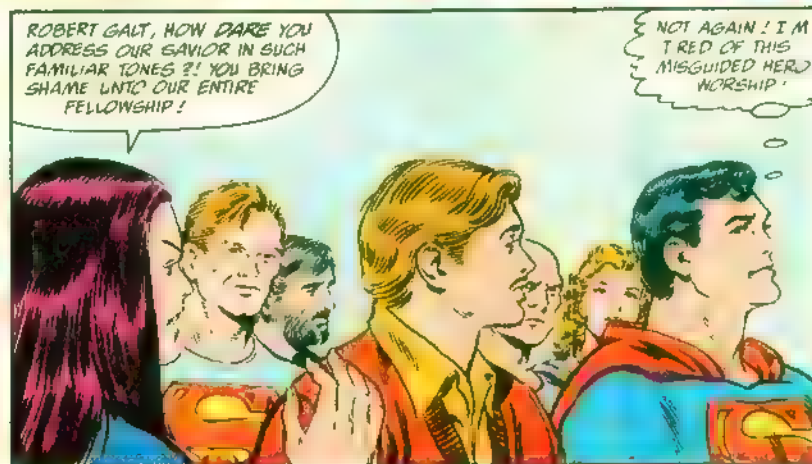
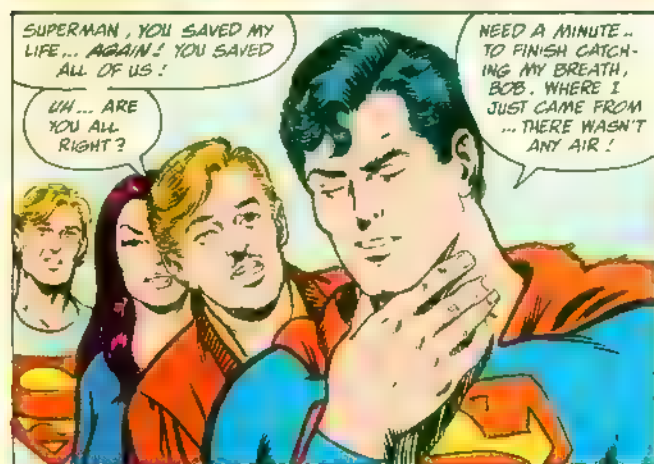
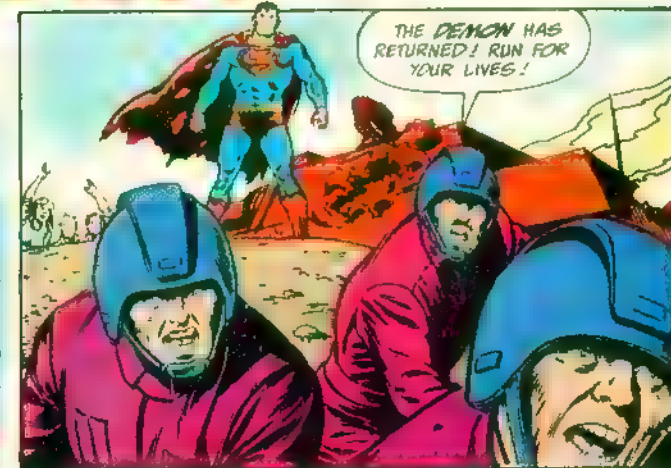
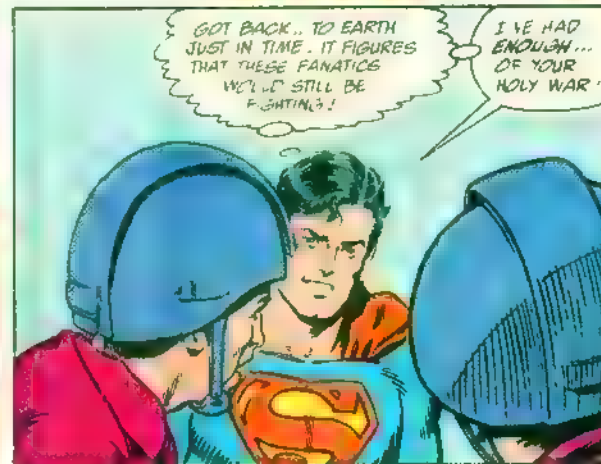
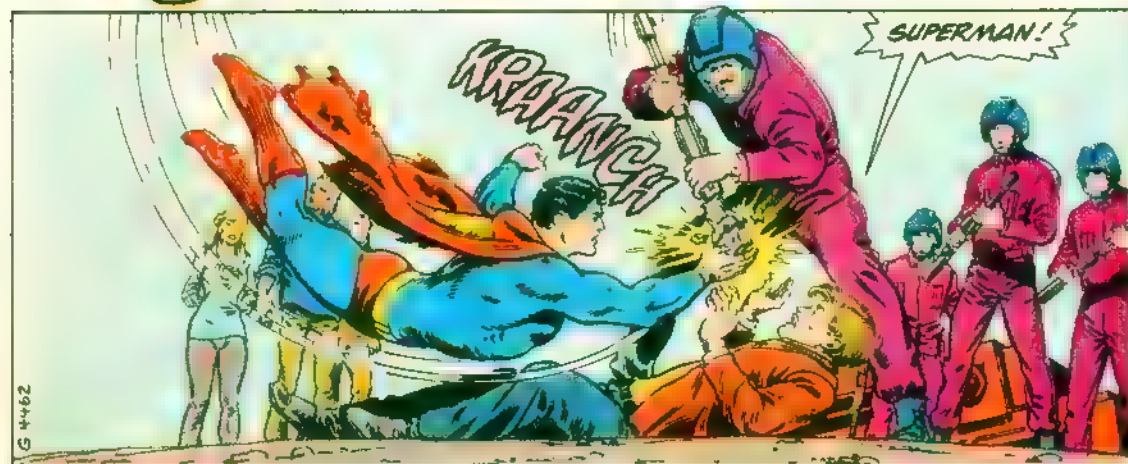
SUPERMAN

Created by
JERRY SEIBEL &
JOE SHUSTER

RENDERED POWERLESS BY SUPERMAN'S DESTRUCTION OF A MYSTERIOUS ENERGY GENERATOR, THE CONSORTIUM AND THE FELLOWSHIP CONTINUE THEIR BATTLE!

"THE FACE AND THE VOICE!"

ROGER STERN - WRITER
CURT SWAN - PENCILLER
MURPHY ANDERSON - INKER
BILL OAKLEY - LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO - COLORIST
MIKE CARLIN - EDITOR



NEXT WEEK THE POWER OF DARKSEID!

ACTION

COMICS WEEKLY

DC COMICS INC.
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A few changes this week

We welcome our old friends *Wild Dog* and *The Phantom Stranger* back to the pages of ACTION, and you'll note Speedy has gone out on his own after our recent and well-received Nightwing and Speedy stories. *The Demon* is debuting this week, and we're introducing you to an all-new version of *The Phantom Lady*.

To say we have plans for all of these features would be something like telling you that big yellow ball up in the sky is called "the sun." We're working on sequel mini-series and specials on all these features... *except* Phantom Lady. So do us a favor: give the six-week debut series a careful read, and let us know: do you want to see more of her—and, if so, in what form?

And what happened to our established mainstays? Well, *Blackhawk* will be debuting in his (their?) own ongoing monthly series in a few short weeks. *Green Lantern* will next be appearing in the massive GREEN LANTERN CORPS Prestige Format series—followed immediately by the all-new monthly GREEN LANTERN comic, and *Deadman* will next be found in a Prestige Format two-parter.

We'll have more late breaking news in these pages over the next few weeks. And now, on to your letters.

Dear Mike,

From what I've read, sales on ACTION COMICS WEEKLY have not been as high as they could (and should) be. It takes six dollars a month to keep up with ACTION COMICS WEEKLY, as compared to \$ 75 to \$100 a month for the average monthly comic book. It's a shame that that cost should scare people away from a quality product. Still, changing the format could only make the comic weaker, I hope you will stick with it, because I am confident that readers will wake up to what you have going here.

The Secret Six is still far and away the best series in the book. Dan Spiggle is missed on the art chores, but the storyline is one of the most original ever seen in comics. I'm sure Black Canary has an interesting story, too. I just wish I could understand it. She has a different personality in each book she appears in, from JUSTICE LEAGUE INTERNATIONAL to GREEN ARROW here. I seem to remember her being a super-heroine though, not just a fighting social worker.

I like the new Captain Nazi, his origin is very plausible in its updated form, and

it's good to see another figure from the old Captain Marvel mythos. Shazam! is shaping up to be an interesting series. Green Lantern is being mishandled, though. It seems very unrealistic. Hat needed weeks of training from the Priest so that he could send a power blast through the roof and demand that the two alien races make peace? I think he could have ad-libbed that fairly simplistic approach to peacemaking.

Finally, though you've heard it a million times, Superman is still too short. All the potential is there, but two pages is just too little.

David Metz
2952 N Stowell Ave
Milwaukee, WI 53211

Actually, sales on ACW were quite healthy, out-selling almost two-thirds of our regularly published books. Like I said, we'll keep you informed as to what happens to which features, but, in case you hadn't heard, Superman will be returning to full-length ACTION (by George Perez, no less!) in #643.

Dear ACTION COMICS WEEKLY

I am taking the time to write because I think your series is fabulous. The weekly approach is good and so are the features. My votes for #625 were as follows:

- 1) Green Lantern: an interesting storyline is developing.
- 2) Superman: once again, the two pager was just enough for someone who isn't a Superman fanatic but likes him just the same.
- 3) Secret Six
- 4) Deadman
- 5) Black Canary
- 6) Shazam!

Despite its 3 rating, Secret Six was once again boring and rambled on about what we already knew. Deadman was fine, but a little weird. What has happened to Black Canary's sonic scream? I have been following GREEN ARROW so I have no idea what has happened.

As a Jew, I found Shazam! very insulting. I know and accept what is happening in the world today, but for comics to express it... I would have left Shazam! out if I could have. One more story like this and I boycott a great mag.

Andrew Woodard
57 Tisdale Rd
Scarsdale, NY 10583

I find your reaction interesting, Andrew. Comic books, as well as all of the popular media, had better keep the memory of the holocaust alive, lest it happen again as it happened before. As a Jew, I applaud Roy and Rick for their story.

Dear Mike

I just read in *Comic Buyers Guide* that ACTION is going back to being a monthly with just Superman. Does this mean the weekly format is gone for good? If so, I really think you're abandoning it too soon. I look forward to this book every week. I talk it up to everyone I can. I'm going to miss it. Don't take too much offense here, but giving up after only 25 weeks is something I'd expect from Marvel, not you guys. And everyone sounded so committed to weeklies at the Chicago Con just two months ago.

So, what's going to happen to the Green Lantern, Blackhawk, Deadman features now? Is there any point in responding to the poll anymore? If so, here goes for ACTION COMICS WEEKLY #625—1-Green Lantern, 2-Shazam!, 3-Deadman, 4-Black Canary, 5-Secret Six, 6-Superman.

Dan Gaines
9040 Woodmoss Lane
Indianapolis, IN 46250

The anthology format is still alive, Dan, although with all the spin-offs from ACTION, I'm not certain we'll have sufficient resources to do the next one as a 48-page monthly.

Dear Editor

My votes for ACTION COMICS #625 are as follows:

- 1 Shazam!
- 2 Secret Six
- 3 Black Canary
- 4 Superman
- 5 Deadman
- 6 Green Lantern

Tom Scott
Donora, PA

P.S. The Shazam! feature is fantastic and I love the cliffhanger ending. I can't wait to see the battle between Captain Marvel and Captain Nazi. I also can't wait for the monthly Shazam! comic to begin. Please let us know when that will occur.

Dear Mike

1 Green Lantern—Great art. Great story (Green Lantern in space—where he should be) although the opening was confusing

2 Supes—There's no beating Swanderson!

3 Secret Six—Fair art. Exciting story, but occasionally confusing

4 Shazam!—Isn't a gagged Billy a rather clichéd cliffhanger?

5 Deadman—Bizarre art, but perhaps appropriate for Deadman. Why didn't Deadman try to "dislodge" Delia sooner?

6. Black Canary—Sharon's plots seem good, but her scripting is too confusing ... and Randy's pencils don't help

James Ricklef
(Address withheld)

.....

To the ACTION people,

Hey, hey, hey . . . now we're startin' to cook! The Black Canary story is light years away from the last installment—the art is exquisite . . . I don't know if the fish-net and blond wig make her who she is . . . and the lack of dialogue and the mysterious ladies wandering around add spice to the series . . . you guys are gettin' close to my idea of The Black Canary! Deadman is really hot! I love the voodoo angle . . . much better than the Nancy vs. Raisa comedy. Captain Marvel continues to surprise me. Some parts are predictable . . . but all in all, it's good very good

Joe Woods
1024 Potrero Ave #7
San Francisco, CA 94110

.....

Active Ones—

I'm writing because I'm upset by a non-story element of #625, namely the lack of editorial response to something I feel requires one. I mentioned it in my last letter, it was paralleled almost identically in Alan Ferguson's, which you printed. I really feel there should have been some response on your part—obviously, I mean the absolutely amoral murder by Catwoman of the two guards. This was not shown as a hostile, psychotic, or malign act, but as one absolutely disconnected from any semblance of humanity. It was very similar to V's actions and the police investigator's, in V FOR VENDETTA, yet without any of the complexity. You presented her (Catwoman) sympathetically (how I felt you had done this, why I disagreed were detailed in my last letter). Why was there NO editorial response? ACTION (Gold), CATWOMAN (O Neil) editors, and writer (Newell) should have responded.

Now, #625—liked ALL Ratings there fore are relative: 1) Black Canary—love DuBurke/Marcos art, fascinating shift in pacing 2) Secret Six—really coming together 3) Superman—enough back ground to just let it flow 4) Deadman—neato 5) Green Lantern—Nice Classi-

galactic 6) Shazam!—We'll see. Good that, unlike most would have done, the Thomases didn't have Bill suspected right off

Paul G. Davis
419 N. Ingalls, Apt. 2
Ann Arbor, MI 48164

Actually, we were hoping to generate some reader response, and we were off the mark. I suspect that people are more inclined to send those letters in when the Catwoman mini-series concludes.

.....

Dear Editor(s)

A change of pace this time around. I'll treat this like any other mag, only because this isn't unique anymore. Ergo, be prepared for some more intelligent commentary.

Ed Barreto's Deadman cover has been the closest interpretation, artistically, that is, of Boston Brand since his mini-series two or three years ago. Loved the montage of images of Deadman's friends and foes from years past that was included here, too. Great stuff. Unfortunately, the storyline's a week behind (you've yet to explain that, by the way), as the cover blurb would indicate. While it is worth a read, the art just isn't satisfying enough. Put Barreto or Garcia-Lopez on the next storyline, and pray for a miracle.

To all those short-sighted, violence-crazed readers who aren't intrigued by the Secret Six, you're definitely missing something here. What makes a good comic, other than a popular character or creative personnel? A story that makes the book more interesting than just looking at the artwork. I still can't see how many of these people can ignore something like this and favor mindless violence or equally mindless scripts, like Blackhawk, for example. If someone has a good theory on this, I'm willing to listen, otherwise I'm tempted to ram an Agatha Christie novel down his throat. Food for thought, you know?

I'm part of the majority (I think) of readers that disapproves of the "Sunday Funnies" format given Superman. The normal Sunday strip either is part of an ongoing storyline in the daily paper, or, like Superman, a story unto itself. However, such things last two or three months on average. This story has been going on for six months and counting, and I still don't have a clue as to what's going on here. While it is interesting as the weeks pass, it wavers on the verge of putting me to sleep. I'm thankful the other features here are interesting, else I wouldn't be buying the book regularly.

The Showcase feature has been consistently good reading, although I sometimes find fault with the writing. In the case of Shazam!, Rick Stasi's art rises above a fair (at best) script by Roy and Dann Thomas Fair, but predictable. I am looking forward to the conclusion next issue.

If you dudes had enough sense to resume using back-up features in the other books, Black Canary would fit in well either in DETECTIVE or GREEN ARROW (where else?) The story's

coming along nicely after two weeks, but is a bit confusing. Give DuBurke a regular place to hang his hat, like BAT-MAN, for example.

GREEN LANTERN has progressed rather well the last few weeks, even though the art still hasn't matched the high standard set by Gil Kane in the first six weeks. Nice to see Green Lantern involved in intergalactic adventure again, though, because this is the sort of thing that set him apart from other major characters. Hal Jordan's adventures are more steeped in science-fiction than ADAM STRANGE or SUPERMAN or MARTIAN MANHUNTER, and because of this, he is equally appreciated or panned by fandom in general.

Jacob Gilbert
118 4th St., Apt. 1
Troy, NY 12180

Actually, quite a number of Sunday newspaper strips maintain a continuity separate from that of the daily: The Phantom, Flash Gordon, Mandrake the Magician, Prince Valiant (which has no daily counterpart), Juliet Jones, among others—including the classic Superman Sunday strip which ran from the late 1930s to the early 1960s.

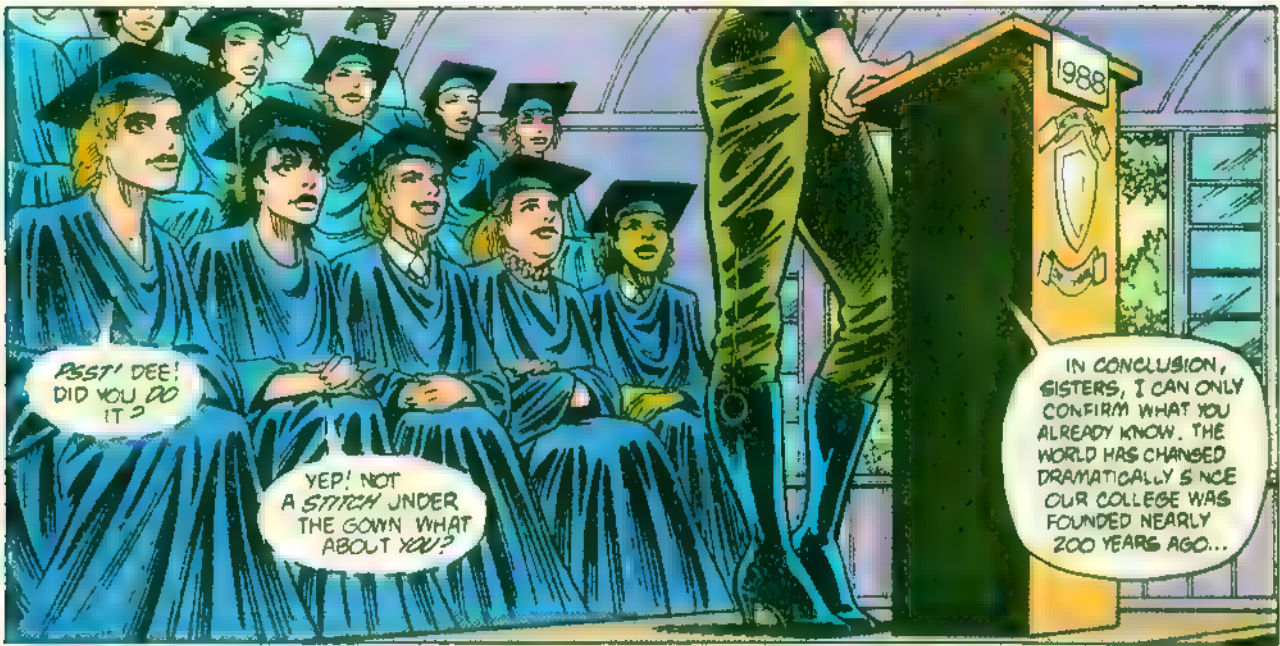
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NEXT WEEK—Superman, Phantom Lady, Wild Dog, Speedy, and the Demon all return and we introduce you to a brand-new super-group—Hero Hotline—ALL behind a Speedy cover by Jerome Moore!

We'll see you in seven!

—Mike Gold



BSST! DEE!
DID YOU DO
IT?

YEP! NOT
A *STITCH* UNDER
THE GOWN WHAT
ABOUT YOU?

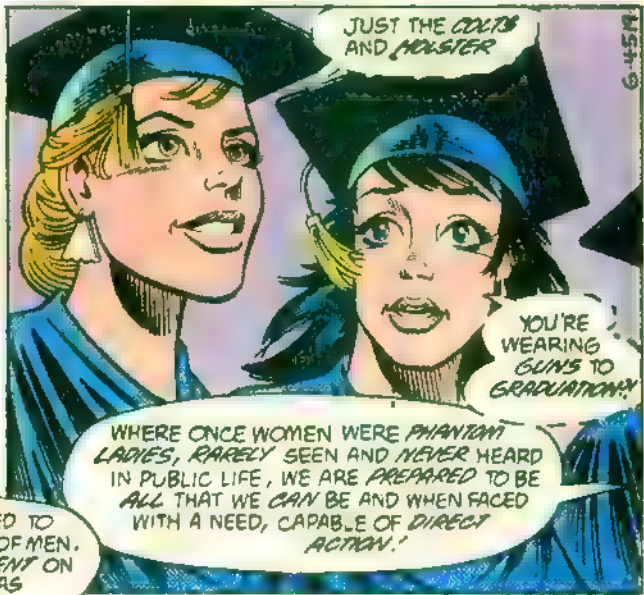
IN CONCLUSION,
SISTERS, I CAN ONLY
CONFIRM WHAT YOU
ALREADY KNOW. THE
WORLD HAS CHANGED
DRAMATICALLY SINCE
OUR COLLEGE WAS
FOUNDED NEARLY
200 YEARS AGO...



NOTHING... WELL,
ALMOST NOTHING! YOU
KNOW, *CHERIE*, I WOULD
HAVE *NEVER* PASSED
THE UNARMED DRILL
WITHOUT YOU. YOU WERE
RIGHT MASTER CHAN
DOES *ALWAYS* FEINT
HIGH.

YEP, AND I
WOULD *NEVER* 'VE
GOTTEN THAT *AK-47*
ASSEMBLY ON TIME WITHOUT
YOU. WATCHA WEARING?
BIKINI?

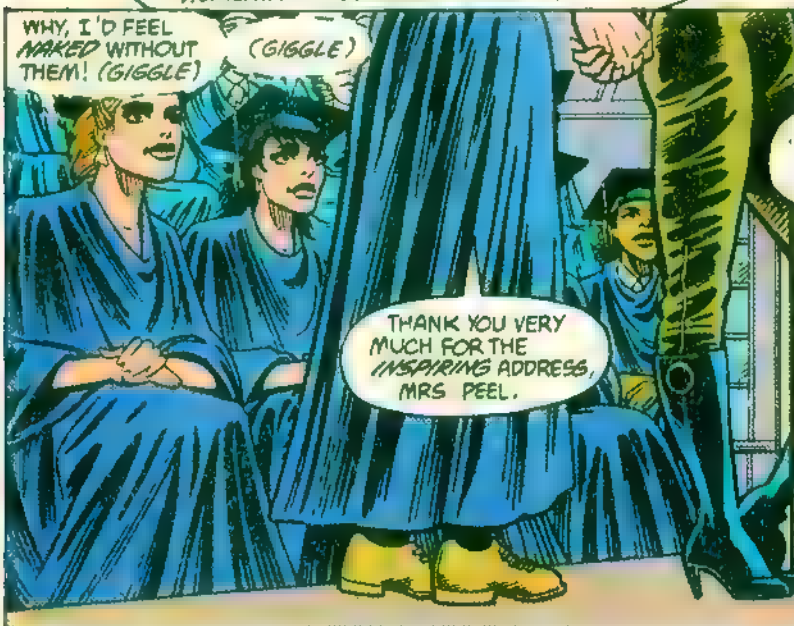
... NO LONGER ARE STUDENTS TRAINED TO
BE *GIRLS* WHO STAND IN THE *SHADOWS* OF MEN.
RATHER, WE PREPARE OURSELVES TO BE *COMPETENT* ON
ALL LEVELS... AS *LEADERS*... AS *FIGHTERS*... AS
WOMEN... AND *EQUALS* OF ANYONE!



JUST THE *COOL*
AND *MOUSIER*

YOU'RE
WEARING
GUNS TO
GRADUATION?

WHERE ONCE WOMEN WERE *PHANTOM*
LADIES, RARELY SEEN AND *NEVER* HEARD
IN PUBLIC LIFE, WE ARE *PREPARED* TO BE
ALL THAT WE CAN BE AND WHEN FACED
WITH A NEED, CAPABLE OF *DIRECT*
ACTION!



WHY, I'D FEEL
NAKED WITHOUT
THEM! (*GIGGLE*)

(*GIGGLE*)

THANK YOU VERY
MUCH FOR THE
INSPIRING ADDRESS,
MRS. PEEL.

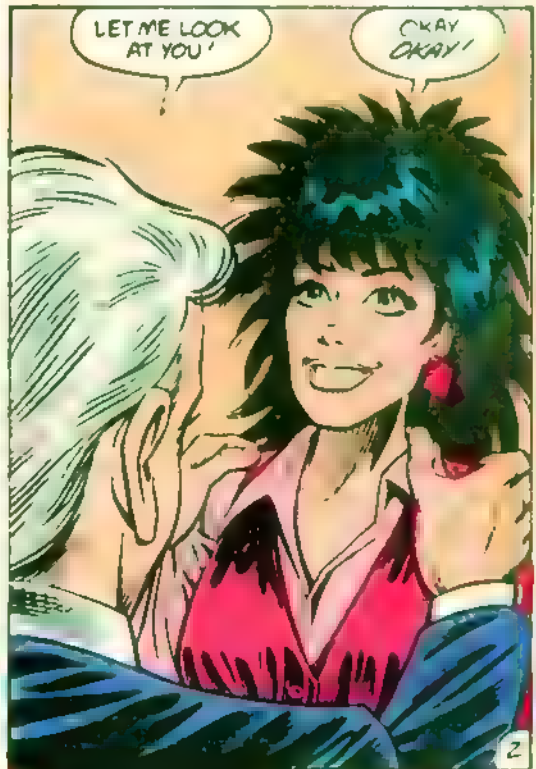
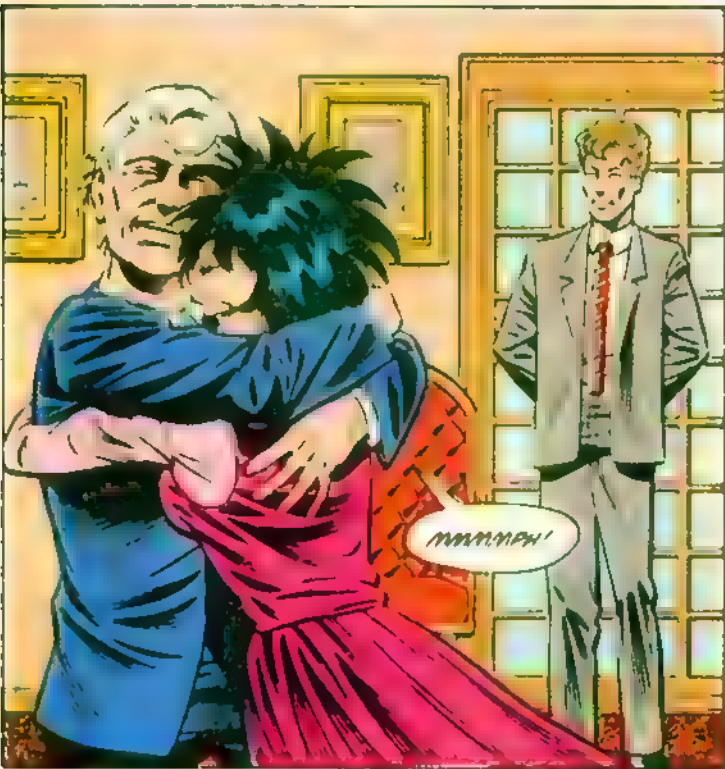
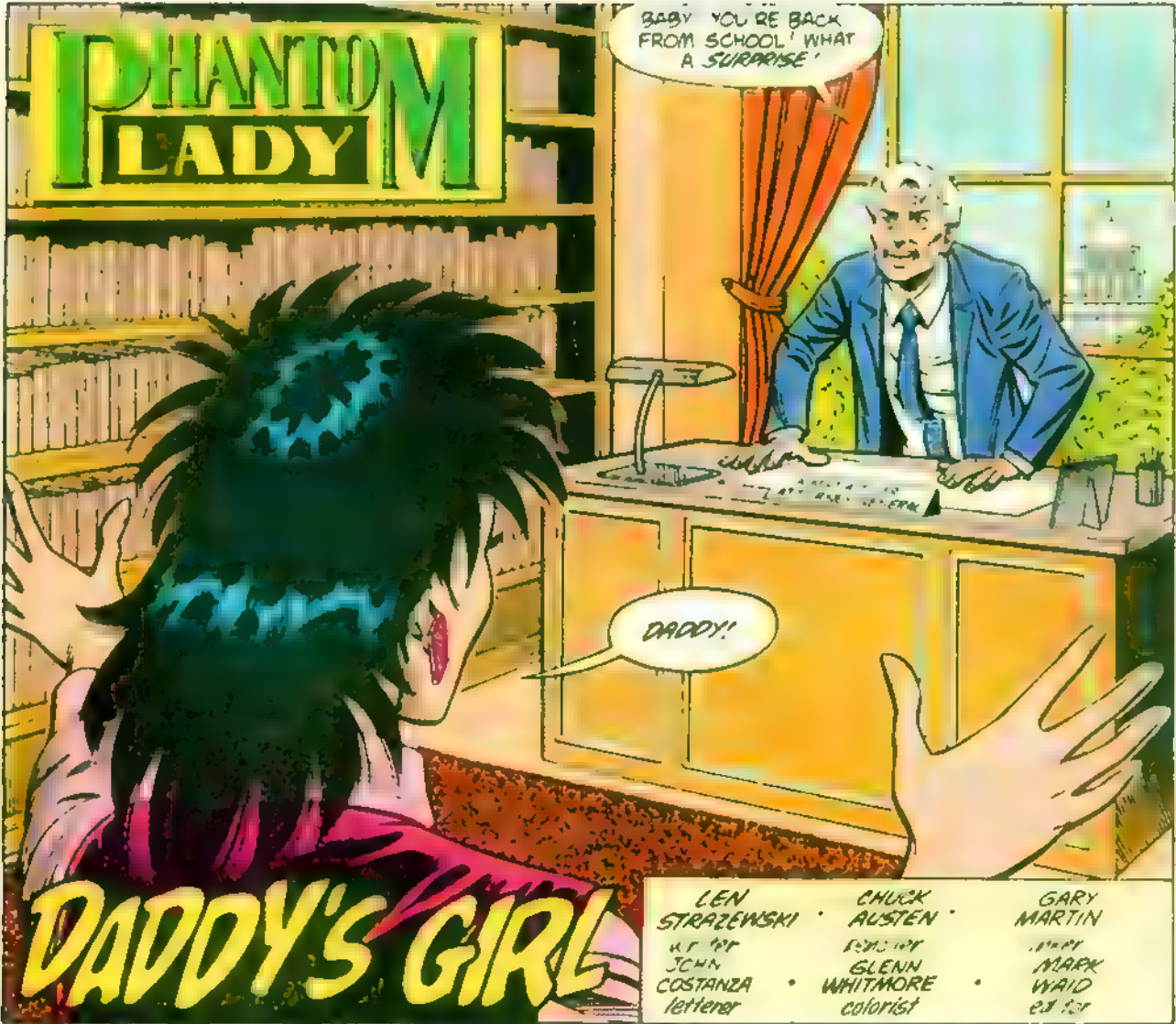


IT'S ALWAYS A
PLEASURE TO RETURN TO
MY *ALMA MATER*, DEAN
KNIGHT.

WE *MADE* IT,
MARIE! NOW WE'RE ON OUR
OWN. NO MORE *LIT* TESTS--
NO MORE *ANTI-TERRORISM*
SEMINARS!

(*SNIFE*)
ME, TOO!

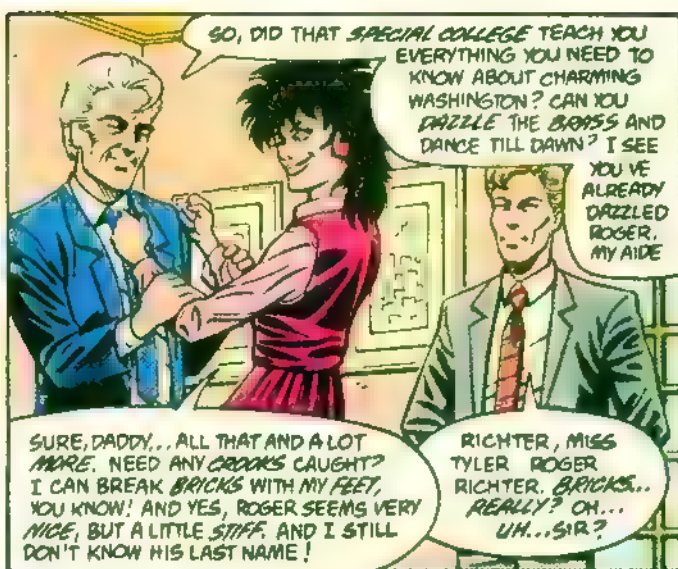
I THINK I'LL *MISS*
THEM, DEE. I'LL
MISS YOU, TOO.





WHY, SWEETHEART, YOU LOOK EVERY INCH A LADY! JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER. GOD REST HER SOUL; BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT YOU FOR WEEKS!

WELL, YOU KNOW, EVEN THE RIVIERA CAN GET BORING, DADDY. I GUESS I HAD ENOUGH POST-GRADUATION VACATION.



SO, DID THAT SPECIAL COLLEGE TEACH YOU EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT CHARMING WASHINGTON? CAN YOU DAZZLE THE BOSS AND DANCE TILL DAWN? I SEE YOU'VE ALREADY DAZZLED ROGER, MY AIDE

SURE, DADDY... ALL THAT AND A LOT MORE. NEED ANY CROOKS CAUGHT? I CAN BREAK BRICKS WITH MY FEET, YOU KNOW! AND YES, ROGER SEEMS VERY NICE, BUT A LITTLE STIFF. AND I STILL DON'T KNOW HIS LAST NAME!

RICHTER, MISS TYLER ROGER RICHTER. BRICKS... REALLY? OH... UH... SIR?



OH, SWEETHEART, YOU ALWAYS WERE SUCH A LITTLE KIDDER! BRICKS WITH YOUR FEET! I SUPPOSE YOU TOOK KARATE LESSONS! (CHUCKLE CHUCKLE)

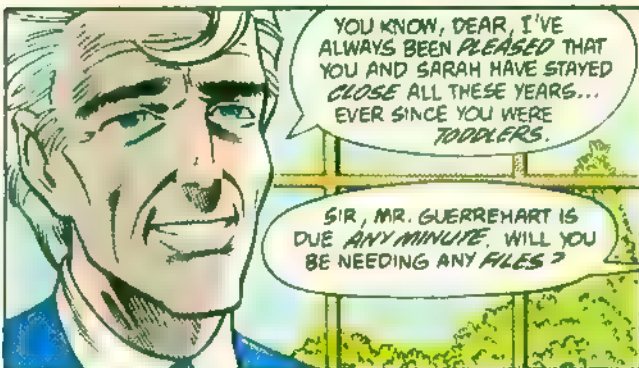
SAVATE DADDY! IT'S LIKE A COMBINATION OF KARATE AND GYMNASTICS.



DID YOU KNOW SARAH IS IN TOWN? ATTENDING GEORGETOWN?

YOU BET! I ALREADY CALLED HER. WE'RE GOING TO BE ROOMIES!

SIR IT'S ALMOST TWO O'CLOCK



YOU KNOW, DEAR, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN PLEASED THAT YOU AND SARAH HAVE STAYED CLOSE ALL THESE YEARS... EVER SINCE YOU WERE TODDLERS.

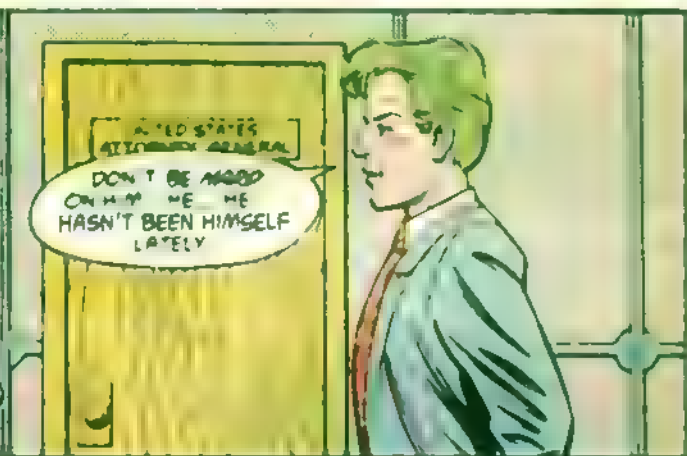
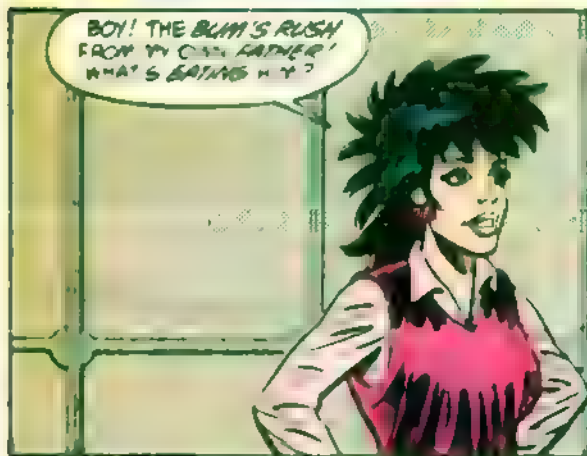
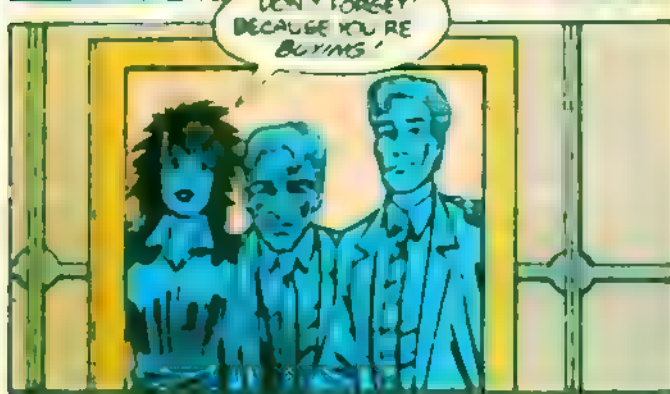
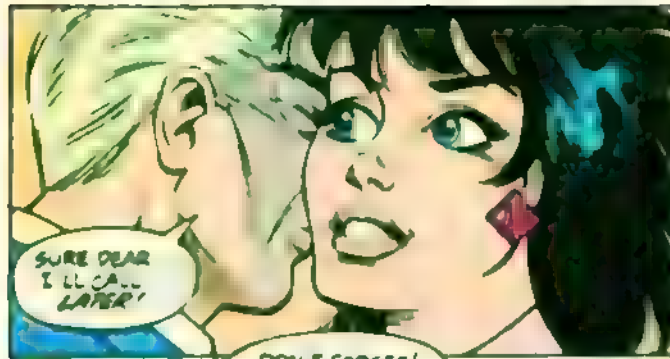
SIR, MR. GUERREHART IS DUE ANY MINUTE. WILL YOU BE NEEDING ANY FILES?

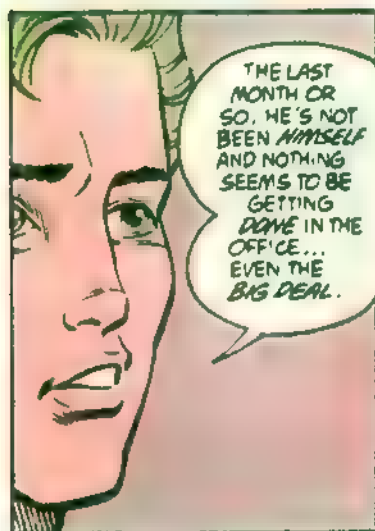
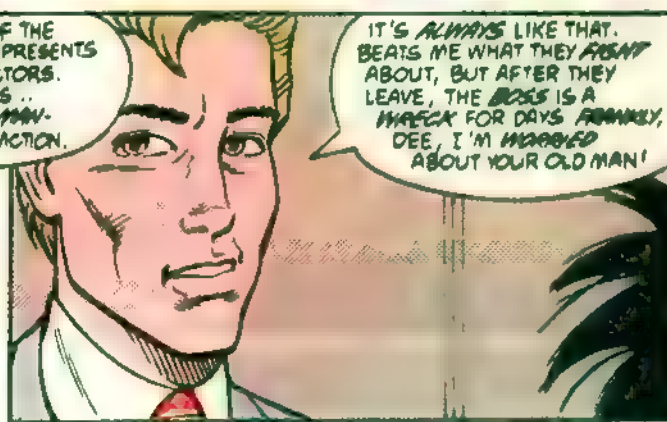
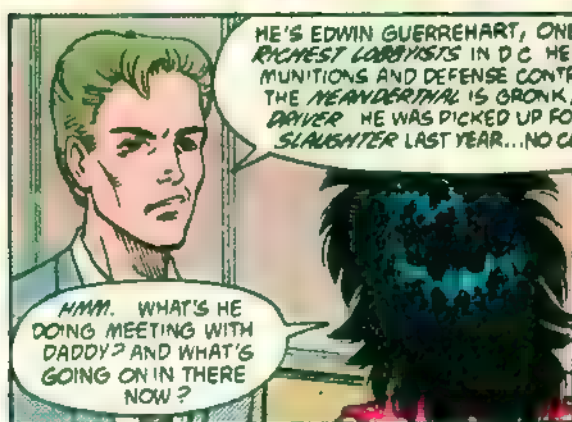
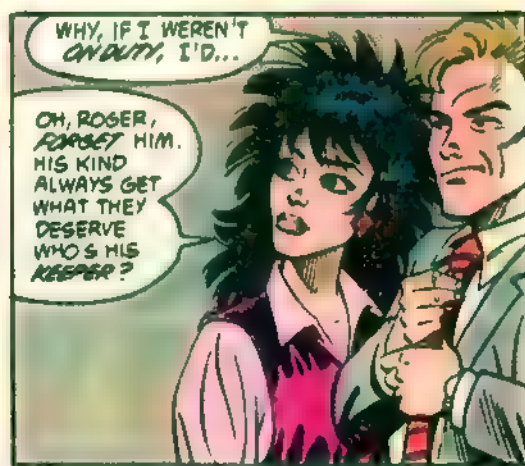


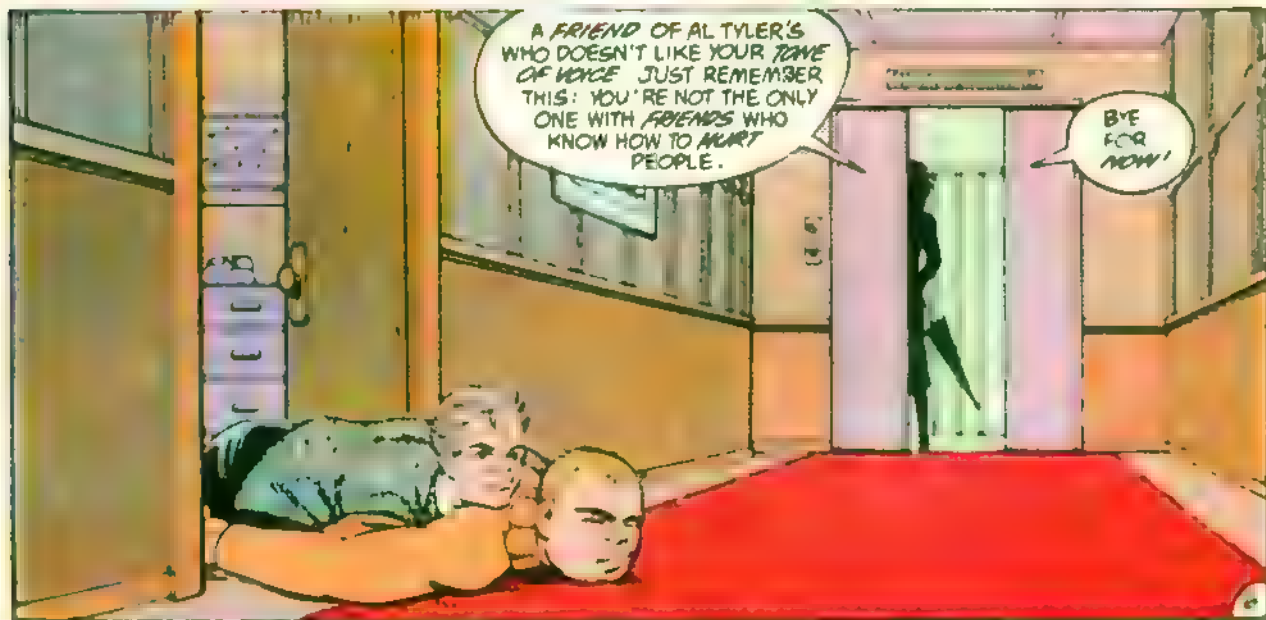
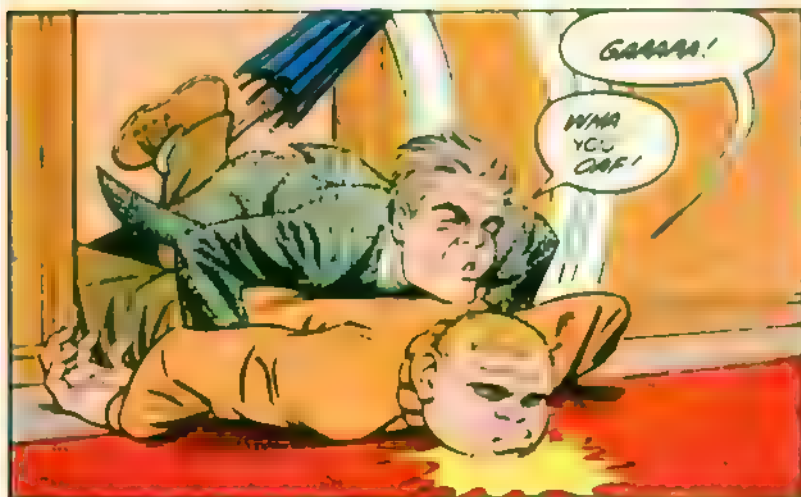
YOU SEE... IT'S JUST THAT...

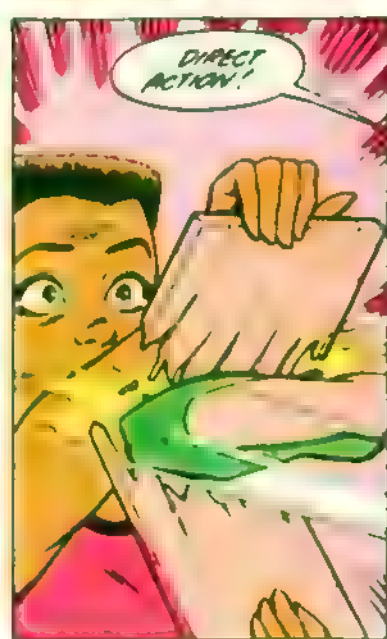
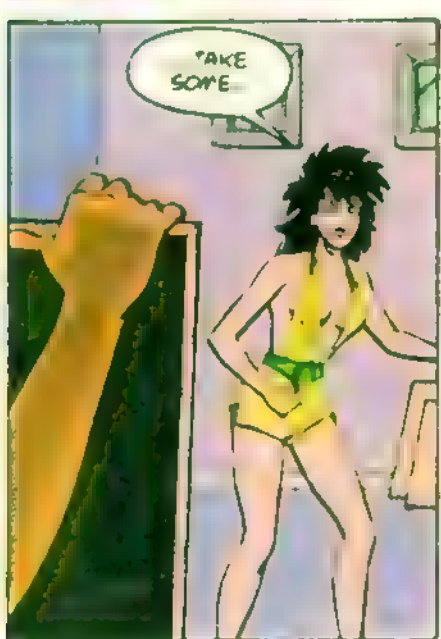
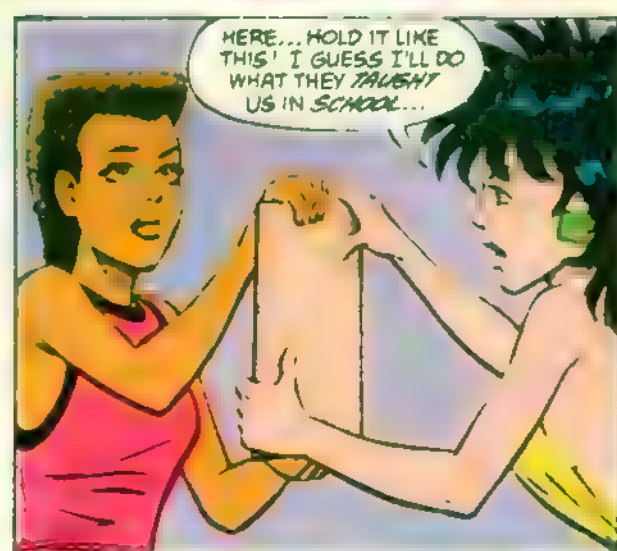
I UNDERSTAND, DADDY. CALL ME LATER AT SARAH'S. THE THREE OF US WILL HAVE DINNER.

GUERREHART? OH, YES. DARLING, I'M AFRAID YOU'LL HAVE TO LEAVE... I MEAN UH... I'VE GOT A MEETING... AND... UH...









WILD DOG



CRACK UP

THE STORY OF TERRY REAGAN
AND HIS FRIENDS
JERRY REAGAN
JOHN REAGAN
AND
THE REAGAN BROTHERS
IN THE
CITY OF
LOS ANGELES

Chapter One

WRONG

TIP



OKAY WHAT
IF WE WANT MORE
NEXT WEEK?

YOU'VE
GIVEN MY
MAN



IT'S EASY TO FIND
ANYONE TO
DO IT FOR THEM THEY
I'M EASY TO FIND...

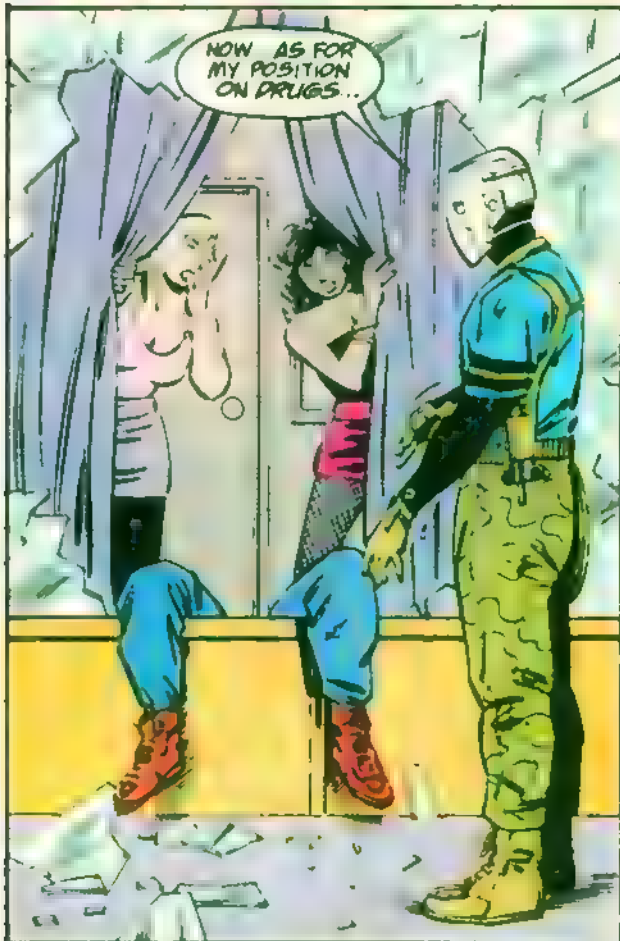


IF SOMEONE HAS A PROBLEM
AS A MAN IN THE
IT'S SIMPLE, REALLY



KRASH!

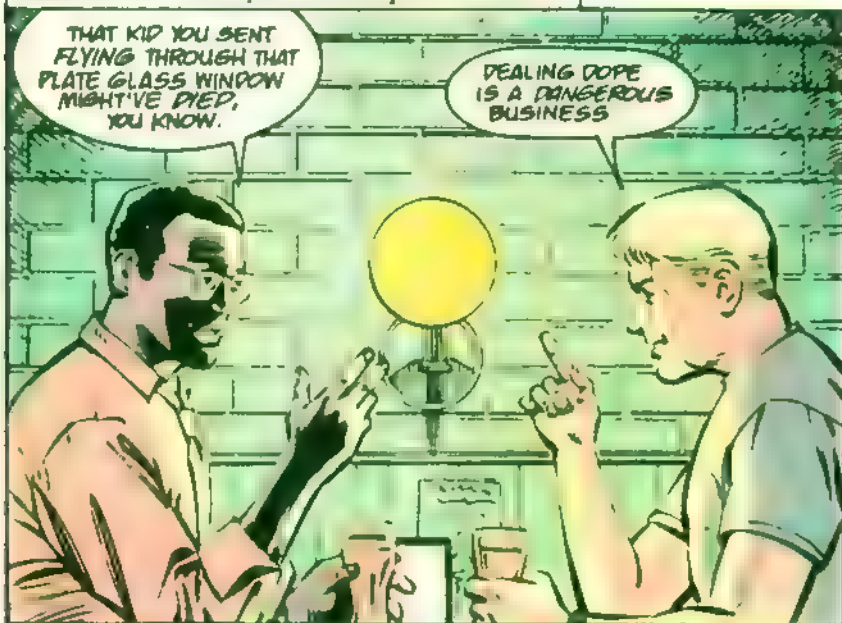
NOW AS FOR
MY POSITION
ON DRUGS...



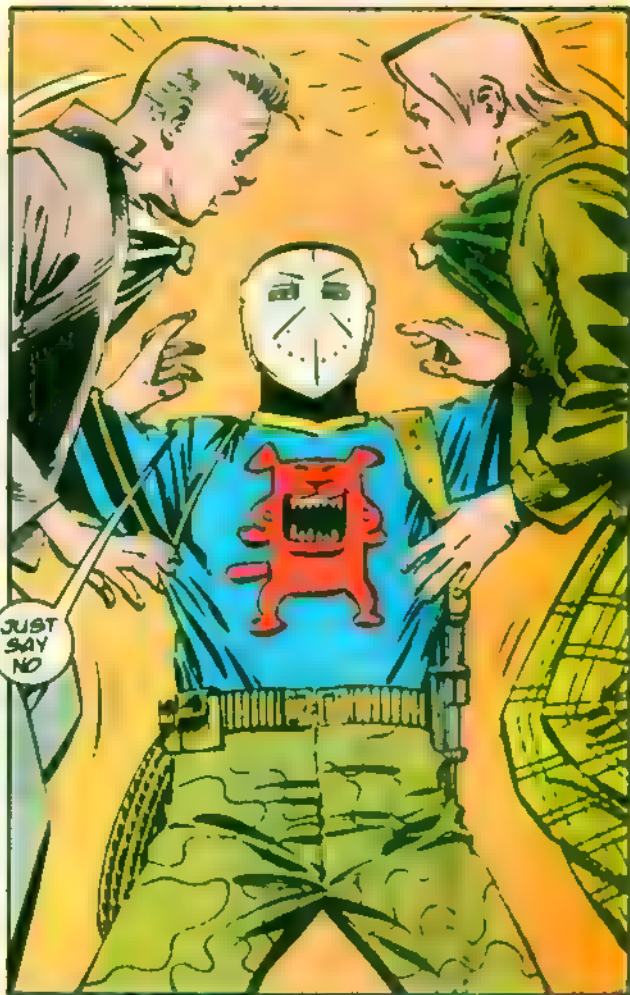
someday when you read this combat log,
Lou, you will recall the first night you
mentioned Georgie Washington to me

THAT KID YOU SENT
FLYING THROUGH THAT
PLATE GLASS WINDOW
MIGHT'VE DIED,
YOU KNOW.

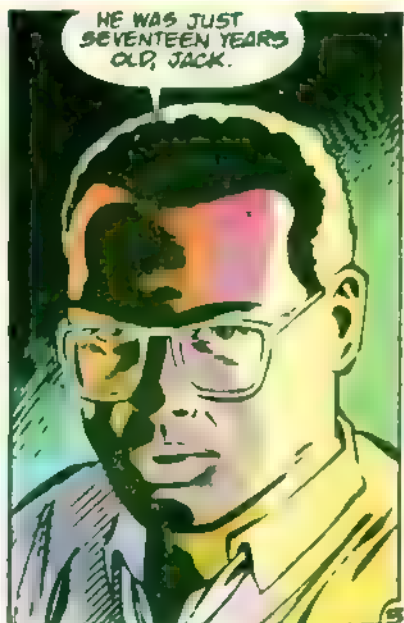
DEALING DOPE
IS A DANGEROUS
BUSINESS



JUST
SAY
NO



HE WAS JUST
SEVENTEEN YEARS
OLD, JACK.





SOME OF HIS CLIENTS ARE A HELL OF A LOT YOUNGER.



A LOT OF HIS CLIENTS ARE WHITE KIDS, FROM GOOD HOMES... THIS ISN'T JUST BAD BLACK KIDS, JACK.



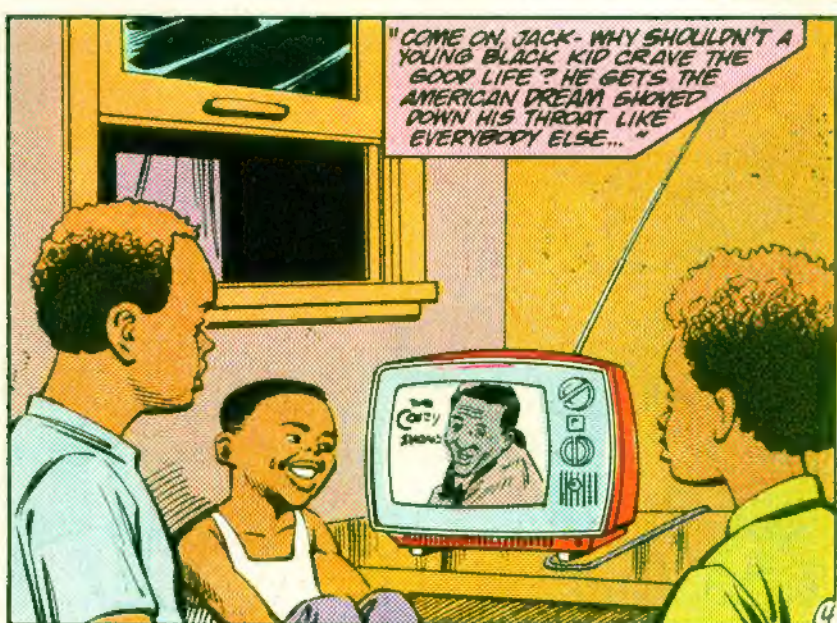
"HELL, LOU, I KNOW THAT. REMEMBER THE GOOD OLD DAYS WHEN COKE WAS A RICH MAN'S VICE? THESE DAMN KIDS CAN GET A VIAL FOR UNDER FIVE BUCKS..."



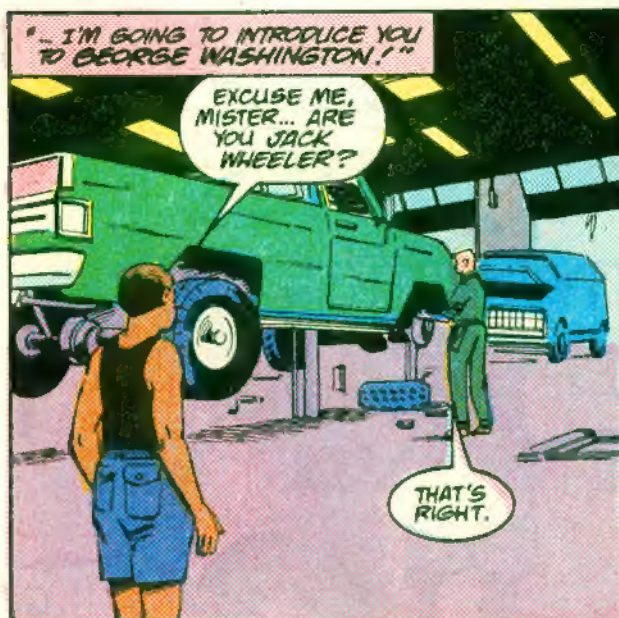
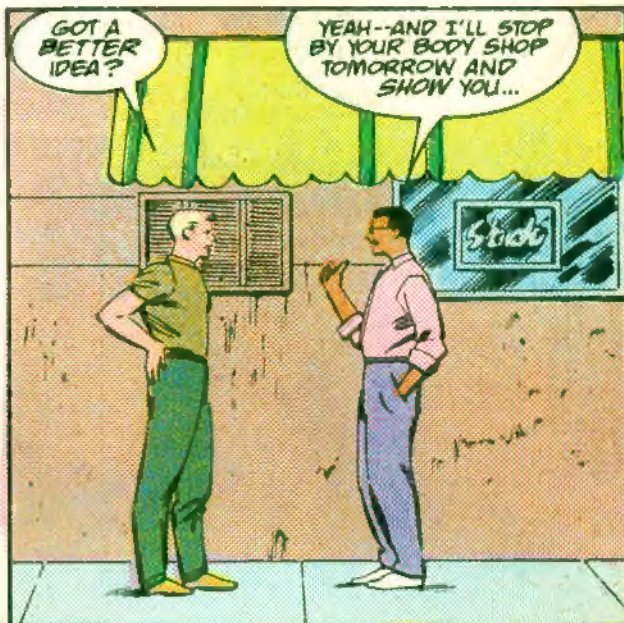
"JACK, THAT KID YOU PUT IN THE HOSPITAL DOESN'T HAVE A FATHER... HE'S ONE OF SIX, THE BREAD-WINNER FOR A MOM WHO'D HAVE TO BE PLASTIC MAN TO MAKE HER WELFARE CHECK STRETCH FAR ENOUGH."



MAYBE SO, BUT THAT "KID" WAS WEARING ENOUGH GOLD JEWELRY TO BUY HIS POOR MOM A NEW HOUSE. MAYBE THE BLAME'S NOT ALL HIS, BUT THAT KID TOOK A WRONG TURN.



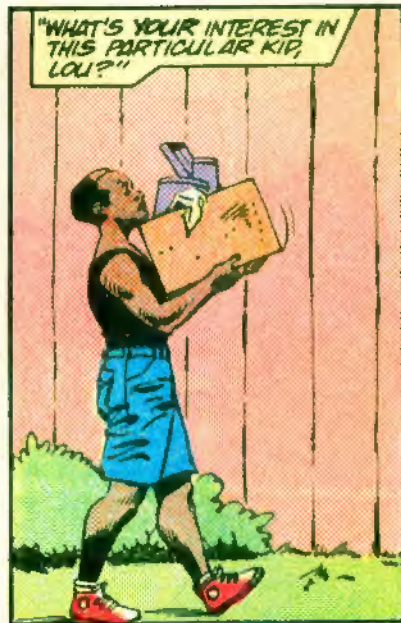
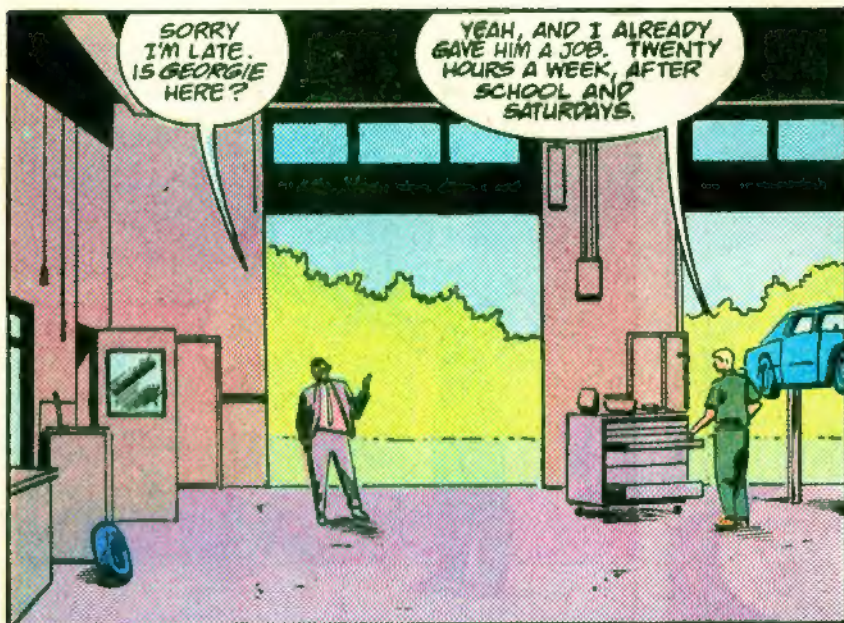
"COME ON, JACK - WHY SHOULDN'T A YOUNG BLACK KID CRAVE THE GOOD LIFE? HE GETS THE AMERICAN DREAM SHOVED DOWN HIS THROAT LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE..."



SORRY
I'M LATE.
IS GEORGIE
HERE?

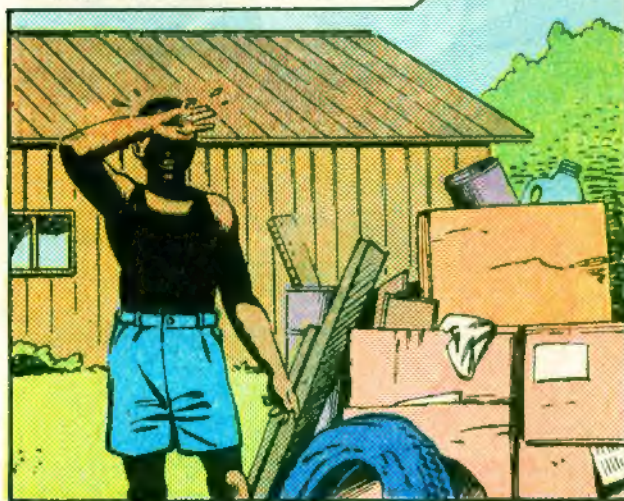
YEAH, AND I ALREADY
GAVE HIM A JOB. TWENTY
HOURS A WEEK, AFTER
SCHOOL AND
SATURDAYS.

"WHAT'S YOUR INTEREST IN
THIS PARTICULAR KID,
LOU?"



"HIS OLDER SISTER IS A FRIEND OF MY
DAUGHTER'S. THEIR FAMILY HAS IT
PRETTY TOUGH..."

"GEORGIE'S THE NEXT-OLDEST AND THE ONLY BOY.
HIS MOM IS BEDRIDDEN, ON WELFARE. GIVING
HIM A JOB GIVES HIM A CHANCE. NOW, ISN'T
THIS BETTER THAN THROWING SOME DOPE
DEALER THROUGH A WINDOW?"

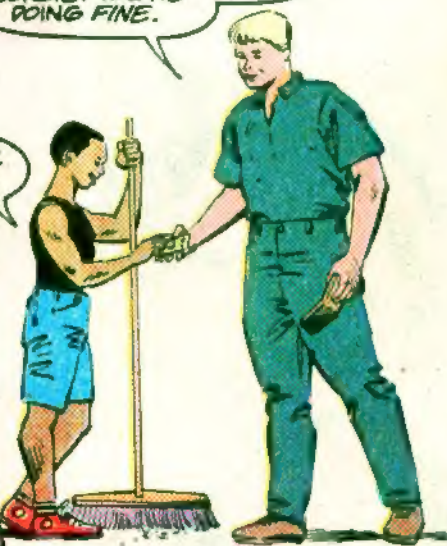
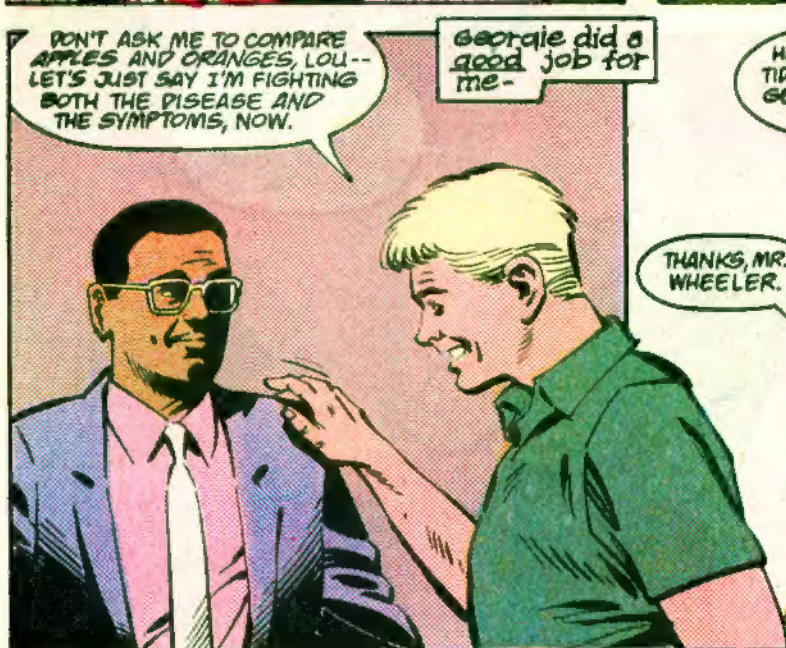


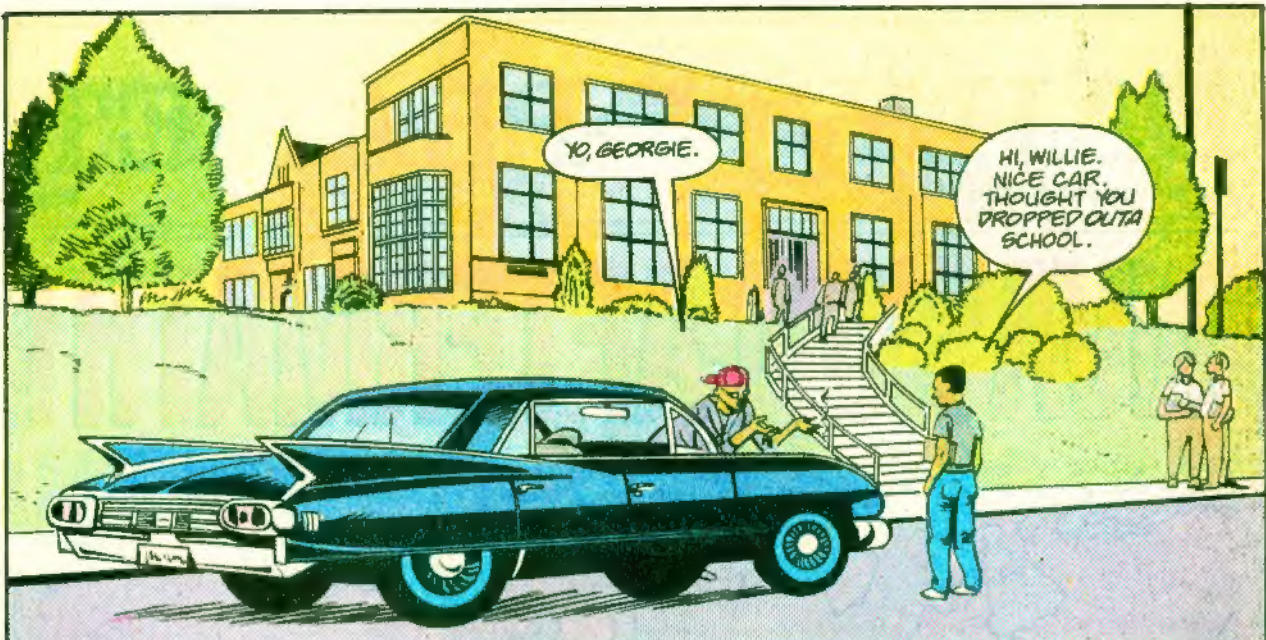
DON'T ASK ME TO COMPARE
APPLES AND ORANGES, LOU--
LET'S JUST SAY I'M FIGHTING
BOTH THE DISEASE AND
THE SYMPTOMS, NOW.

Georgie did a
good job for
me-

HERE'S A COUPLE BUCKS TO
TIDE YOU OVER TILL PAY DAY,
GEORGIE. YOU'RE
DOING FINE.

THANKS, MR.
WHEELER.





YO, GEORGIE.

HI, WILLIE.
NICE CAR.
THOUGHT YOU
DROPPED OUTTA
SCHOOL.



I'M SLUMMIN'
HEAR YOU GOT
A JOB.

YEAH.
BRINGING
IN SOME
EXTRA CASH.



YEAH, MINIMUM WAGE, I
BET. CHUMP CHANGE.

HELPS
PUT FOOD
ON THE
KITCHEN
TABLE.



HEY, HOMEBY--HOW'D YOU
LIKE TO MAKE MORE IN ONE
DAY THAN THAT SWEEPIN' UP
JOB'LL GIVE YA IN A WEEK.



I DON'T WANNA
TOUCH NO DOPE...
I DON'T USE IT,
AND I DON'T
WANNA SELL
IT.

I DON'T USE
IT EITHER---
THAT'S FOR CHUMPS.
BUT THIS JOB
DON'T GET YOU NOWHERE
NEAR THE SELLIN'
OR BUYIN'...



"ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS BE A
LOOKOUT--JUST A KID
HANGIN' OUT... WHO KEEPS
AN EYE OUT FOR COPS
CRUISING THE
NEIGHBORHOOD..."

TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK!